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Method of expression and agents identified thereby

Abstract:

The present invention relates generally to a method for the in vitro or in vivo production, by a eukaryotic host cell, of a protein from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus and, more particularly, to a method for the in vitro or in vivo production by a eukaryotic host cell of a protein from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae and agents identified thereby. Still more particularly, said protein is the F, N, P or SH protein, the encoding nucleic acid molecule of which has been optimised for expression in a eukaryotic host cell. In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for modulating the functional activity of an F protein. More particularly, said modulation is predicated on modulation of the functioning of a novel intrasequence cleavage event. In still another aspect, the protein expression product produced in accordance with the optimised expression method of the present invention and the method of modulating F protein functional activity are useful in a range of applications including, but not limited to, the identification, design and/or modification of agents capable of modulating functional activity of the subject protein. The proteins, encoding nucleic acid molecules and agents identified in accordance with the present invention are useful, inter alia, in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of viral infections.

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(54) Title: A METHOD OF EXPRESSION AND AGENTS IDENTIFIED THEREBY

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to a method for the *in vitro* or *in vivo* production, by a eukaryotic host cell, of a protein from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus and, more particularly, to a method for the *in vitro* or *in vivo* production by a eukaryotic host cell of a protein from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae and agents identified thereby. Still more particularly, said protein is the F, N, P or SH protein, the encoding nucleic acid molecule of which has been optimised for expression in a eukaryotic host cell. In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for modulating the functional activity of an F protein. More particularly, said modulation is predicated on modulation of the functioning of a novel intrasequence cleavage event. In still another aspect, the protein expression product produced in accordance with the optimised expression method of the present invention and the method of modulating F protein functional activity are useful in a range of applications including, but not limited to, the identification, design and/or modification of agents capable of modulating functional activity of the subject protein. The proteins, encoding nucleic acid molecules and agents identified in accordance with the present invention are useful, *inter alia*, in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of viral infections.

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## A METHOD OF EXPRESSION AND AGENTS IDENTIFIED THEREBY

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to a method for the *in vitro* or *in vivo* production, by a eukaryotic host cell, of a protein from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus and, more particularly, to a method for the *in vitro* or *in vivo* production by a eukaryotic host cell of a protein from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae and agents identified thereby. Still more particularly, said protein is the F, N, P or SH protein, the encoding  
10 nucleic acid molecule of which has been optimised for expression in a eukaryotic host cell. In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for modulating the functional activity of an F protein. More particularly, said modulation is predicated on modulation of the functioning of a novel intrasequence cleavage event. In still another aspect, the protein expression product produced in accordance with the optimised  
15 expression method of the present invention and the method of modulating F protein functional activity are useful in a range of applications including, but not limited to, the identification, design and/or modification of agents capable of modulating functional activity of the subject protein. The proteins, encoding nucleic acid molecules and agents identified in accordance with the present invention are useful, *inter alia*, in the treatment  
20 and/or prophylaxis of viral infections.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Bibliographic details of the publications referred to by author in this specification are  
25 collected alphabetically at the end of the description.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of suggestion that that prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

30

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Paramyxoviridae describes a family of enveloped viruses which exhibit a non-segmented, negative sense single stranded RNA genome. This family includes some significant pathogens of humans, animals and birds including the causal agents of measles, mumps, Newcastle disease, various respiratory diseases, Rinderpest and canine distemper.

5

Within this family exist two subfamilies (Paramyxovirinae and Pneumovirinae). Each subfamily comprises a number of genera - the genera of Pneumovirinae being Pneumovirus. In general, infection by these viruses occurs by fusion of the virus envelope with the plasma membrane of the host cell. Transcription and replication occur in the  
10 cytoplasm. Virions mature by budding through the host cell plasma membrane at sites containing the virus envelope proteins. Infected host cells commonly lyse, but temperate and persistent infections also occur. Infection of the host cell commonly results in cell fusion and syncytium formation, inclusions and haemadsorption.

15 The Pneumovirus genus of Paramyxoviridae differ from Rubulavirus, Morbillivirus and Paramyxovirus genera in that the members lack both haemagglutinin and neuraminidase activity. The Pneumovirus genus includes bovine and human respiratory syncytial virus amongst others. The latter virus is known to cause severe respiratory disease of humans whereas the former is an example of a family member responsible for animal diseases.

20

In general terms, the Paramyxovirus virion consists of a helical nucleocapsid, composed of genomic single stranded RNA and proteins NP, P and L, surrounded by an envelope containing a non-glycosylated M protein in the inner layer and two glycoproteins which extend across the width of the envelope and beyond the outer surface to form spikes. The  
25 larger of the envelope glycoproteins (often designated HN) exhibits cell binding, haemagglutinating and neuraminidase activities, while the smaller F (fusion) protein often exhibits haemolytic activity and promotes fusion between the virus envelope and the host plasma membrane. The F protein can also promote cell-cell fusion. The F protein is generally synthesised as an inactive precursor which is activated by proteolytic cleavage.

30 In Pneumoviruses the G glycoprotein substitutes for HN.



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Host cell infection is thought to occur by adsorption, via HN or G, to the cell surface, followed by F protein mediated fusion between the virus envelope and the host plasma membrane. Viral glycoproteins are also synthesised on membrane bound polysomes, glycosylated, and inserted into the host plasma membrane. During maturation, the virions  
5 bud through the region of the membrane containing these proteins. Accordingly, in terms of treating Paramyxoviridae virus infectivity, modulation of F protein functional activity provides a potential therapeutic mechanism since down-regulating or inhibiting F protein functioning would interfere with F protein mediated fusion of the virion with a potential host cell, and/or virion budding from cells which are already infected. However, in order  
10 to screen for agents which can modulate F protein functional activity, or to utilise F protein for any other purpose, it is necessary to establish an efficient and routinely reproducible *in vitro* system of producing recombinant F proteins, and in particular functionally active F proteins. To date this has proved elusive with existing expression systems producing only low levels of either inactive or very poorly active F proteins which often require co-  
15 expression with other viral glycoproteins to form syncytia. Further, to the extent that F protein is produced, albeit inactive or poorly active, only very low concentrations of protein products have been obtained.

The notion of codon usage is a poorly understood phenomenon which impacts on the  
20 efficiency of expression product production by given cells. Specifically, it has been determined that the levels of expression of protein produced by a cell can vary depending on the particular form of codon which is expressed in relation to a given amino acid. Although some amino acids are encoded by only one type of codon, other amino acids are encoded by up to six different codons, the efficiency of expression of which will vary  
25 depending on the host cell in which it is being expressed. It appears that certain types of cells exhibits preferences for expressing certain codon forms.

In work leading up to the present invention, the inventors have developed an *in vitro* expression system which both facilitates the production of functionally active F protein  
30 expression product and facilitate the production of significantly higher concentrations of F protein, or fragments thereof, than has been previously available. This system is based on

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identification by the inventors of two aspects of negative sense single stranded RNA viral protein expression which are compromised when the subject expression is performed in eukaryotic cells *in vitro*, these being inefficient codon usage and the presence of unwanted intrasequence mRNA splice sites.

5

With respect to the former aspect, the inventors have identified codons within the viral protein nucleic acid encoding molecule which are not efficiently expressed by a given eukaryotic host cell due to their not taking a form preferred by the host cell of interest. By establishing the form of codon preferably expressed by a given host cell, and modifying  
10 the viral protein encoding DNA sequence accordingly, the inventors have achieved levels of viral protein production, in particular F protein production, which have not, to date, been obtainable in normal mammalian expression systems. Further, the method of the present invention facilitates the production of functionally active F proteins.

15 In light of the fact that the basis and mechanism of codon usage preferences are not fully understood, there exist no conclusive theoretical principals by which one can predict with any certainty precisely which codons are not preferred by a given host cell nor which form they should ideally take. Accordingly, the successful development of viral protein encoding nucleic acid molecules which exhibits codons preferred by eukaryotic cells is a  
20 significant development.

With respect to the latter aspect of *in vitro* expression of the subject viral proteins, the inventors have further surprisingly determined that the *in vitro* expression of negative sense single stranded RNA viral proteins is compromised where *in vitro* expression is  
25 based on expression of a complementary DNA form of the naturally occurring RNA sequence encoding the protein of interest. This is due in part to the unexpected presence of RNA splice sites. Identification and removal of the unwanted splice sites has further facilitated efficient and increased viral protein production.

30 In a related aspect, and with respect to the F protein in particular, the inventors have identified a previously unknown intrasequence cleavage site which is involved in the

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generation of functionally active F protein. Identification of this cleavage site now facilitates, *inter alia*, development of methods and identification of agents for modulation F protein cleavage and thereby methods of modulating F protein functioning.

- 5 The developments herein described now permit the identification and/or rational analysis, design and/or modification of agents for use in modulating viral protein functional activity and, in particular, F protein functional activity. Further, the developments of the present invention also facilitate generation of DNA and protein vaccines directed to the *in vivo* induction of an immune response to the subject proteins. The viral molecules produced in  
10 accordance with the method of the present invention and agents herein identified are useful *inter alia*, in a range of prophylactic and therapeutic applications relating to viral infections.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

20

- The subject specification contains nucleotide and amino acid sequence information prepared using the programme PatentIn Version 3.1, presented herein after the bibliography. Each nucleotide or amino acid sequence is identified in the sequence listing by the numeric indicator <210> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <210>1, <210>2,  
25 etc). The length, type of sequence (DNA, protein (PRT), etc) and source of organism for each nucleotide or amino acid sequence are indicated by information provided in the numeric indicator fields <211>, <212> and <213>, respectively. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences referred to in the specification are defined in the information provided in numeric indicator field <400> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <400>1, <400>2,  
30 etc). A summary of the sequence listings herein provided is detailed in Table 1.

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Specific mutations in amino acid sequence are represented herein as "Xaa<sub>1</sub>nXaa<sub>2</sub>" where Xaa<sub>1</sub> is the original amino acid residue before mutation, n is the residue number and Xaa<sub>2</sub> is the mutant amino acid. The abbreviation "Xaa" may be the three letter or single letter amino acid code. A mutation in single letter code is represented, for example, by X<sub>1</sub>nX<sub>2</sub> where X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are the same as Xaa<sub>1</sub> and Xaa<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The amino acid residues for F protein are numbered with the first residue R in the motif RARR being residue number 106.

One aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic host cell.

Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, which protein directly or indirectly facilitates fusion of any one or more viral components with any one or more host cell components, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Still another aspect of the present invention is therefore more particularly directed to a method of facilitating production of a F protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid

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molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Yet still another aspect of the present invention provides a method of facilitating  
5 production of a N protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said N protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

10 Still yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method of facilitating production of a P protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said P protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

15 A further aspect provides a method of facilitating production of a SH protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said SH protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for  
20 expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Another further aspect provides a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said  
25 protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell.

Yet another further aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA  
30 virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which

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nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation and/or nucleotide splice site deletion.

5 Still another further aspect provides a method of facilitating production of F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is nucleotide splice site deletion.

10 Still yet another further aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a  $F_{sol}$  portion of an F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said  $F_{sol}$  portion or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein  
15 said optimisation is nucleotide splice site deletion.

Yet still another further aspect provides a method of facilitating production of F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof,  
20 the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a  $F_{sol}$  portion of an F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said  
25 method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said  $F_{sol}$  portion or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

30 Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method of facilitating production of F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising

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expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is nucleotide splice site deletion and codon optimisation.

5

Still another another aspect of the present invention provides a method of facilitating the production of a F protein or derivative thereof from a respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>5 or derivative thereof.

10

Yet still another aspect provides a method of facilitating the production of a F<sub>so1</sub> portion of an F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>6 or derivative thereof.

15 Still yet another aspect provides a method of facilitating production of P protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said P protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

20

A further aspect provides a method of facilitating the production of a P protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>556 or derivative thereof.

25 Another further aspect provides a method of facilitating production of N protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said N protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

30

- 10 -

Yet another further aspect provides a method of facilitating the production of a N protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>559 or derivative thereof.

5 Still another further aspect provides a method of facilitating production of SH protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said SH protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

10

Still yet another further aspect provides a method of facilitating the production of a SH protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>562 or derivative thereof.

15

In another aspect, the present invention should be understood to extend to the optimised nucleic acid molecules described herein and to the expression products derived therefrom.

Yet another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F  
20 protein functional activity.  
25

Still another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of regulating the functional activity of a Paramyxoviridae derived F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1  
30 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of



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at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

Yet still another aspect of the present invention provides a method of regulating the functional activity of a respiratory syncytial virus F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence, wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity and wherein said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by the peptide sequences RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

In a related aspect, the present invention provides a method of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises the structure:

$X_1, X_2, X_3$

wherein:

$X_1$  comprises the non-intervening peptide sequence region of the F2 portion;

$X_2$  comprises the intervening peptide sequence region of the F<sub>2</sub> portion; and

$X_3$  comprises the F1 portion

said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

Still yet another aspect provides a method of inhibiting, retarding or otherwise down-regulating the functional activity of a Paramyxoviridae derived F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise

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associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising inhibiting or otherwise down-regulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence.

- 5 A further aspect of the present invention provides a method of down-regulating the functional activity of a Paramyxoviridae derived F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises the structure:

$X_1X_2X_3$

10

wherein:

$X_1$  comprises the non-intervening peptide sequence region of the F2 portion;

$X_2$  comprises the intervening peptide sequence region of the F2 portion; and

$X_3$  comprises the F1 portion

15

said method comprising inhibiting or otherwise down-regulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence.

- Another further aspect provides a method for detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a eukaryotic cell expressing an optimised nucleic acid molecule encoding said viral F protein or derivative thereof, as hereinbefore described, with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or functional activity.

- 20 In yet another aspect there is provided a method for detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a host cell, which host cell expresses a nucleic acid molecule encoding the non-fully functional form of said viral F protein or derivative thereof as hereinbefore described, with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or altered functional activity wherein said agent modulates cleavage of the intervening peptide sequence.

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Still another further aspect of the present invention is directed to a method for analysing, designing and/or modifying an agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein or derivative thereof and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said  
5 protein, which protein is produced in accordance with the method of the present invention said method comprising contacting said F protein or derivate thereof with a putative agent and assessing the degree of interactive complementarity of said agent with said protein.

Still yet another further aspect of the present invention is directed to an agent capable of  
10 interacting with a viral F protein and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said viral protein.

In still another aspect there is provided a viral F protein variant comprising a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits modulated functional  
15 activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a viral F protein variant comprising a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated  
20 functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

Yet another aspect provides a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant comprising a mutation in the cleavage site defined by amino acids RARR (<400>564) wherein said  
25 variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

Preferably said mutation comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the following list:

30

(i) R106G

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(ii) A107Q

(iii) R108G

Still more preferably said F protein variant comprises the sequence substantially as set  
5 forth in <400>565.

Still another aspect provides a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant comprising a  
multiple amino acid deletion from the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant  
exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative,  
10 homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent of said variant.

It is more preferably provided that said amino acid deletion is a partial deletion of the  
intervening peptide sequence and more preferably a deletion of the peptide sequence

15 RARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNTVLS <400>569.

Still more preferably said variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set  
forth in <400>567.

20 Yet still another aspect of the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid  
molecule selected from the list consisting of:

(i) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a  
nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F  
protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic  
25 of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the intervening peptide  
sequence wherein said variant exhibits modulated functional activity relative to  
wild-type F protein.

(ii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a  
30 nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F  
protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic

of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.

- 5 (iii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the cleavage site defined by amino acids RARR wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.
- 10
- (iv) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the following list:
- 15
- (a) R106G
  - (b) A107Q
  - (c) R108G
- 20
- (v) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a multiple amino acid deletion from the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.
- 25
- (vi) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic
- 30

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of said variant, which variant comprises a partial deletion of the intervening peptide sequence and more preferably a deletion of the peptide sequence

RARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNVTLS <400>569.

5

- (vii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>567.

10

- (viii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>565.

15

- (ix) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising the nucleotide substantially as set forth in <400>568.

20

- (x) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising the nucleotide substantially as set forth in <400>566.

Still yet another aspect of the present invention provides a recombinant viral construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule comprises codons optimised for expression in a eukaryotic cell, wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein.

- 30 A further aspect of the present invention provides a recombinant viral construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative thereof wherein

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said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein variant.

Another further aspect of the present invention relates to a vaccine comprising a  
5 recombinant viral construct which construct comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a  
respiratory syncytial virus F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which  
nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression in a eukaryotic cell wherein said  
recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an  
immune response to said F protein.

10

Yet another further aspect of the present invention relates to a vaccine comprising a  
recombinant viral construct which construct comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a  
respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant or derivative thereof, wherein said  
recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an  
15 immune response to said F protein variant.

In accordance with these aspects of the present invention, the nucleotide sequence of the  
subject nucleic acid molecule is preferably the nucleotide sequence defined in <400>5,  
<400>6, <400>566 or <400>568.

20

Still another further aspect of the present invention provides the method of modulating at  
least one functional activity associated with a viral F protein in a subject, said method  
comprising introducing into said subject and effective amount of an F protein modulatory  
agent for a time and under condition sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

25

Still yet another further aspect of the present invention provides a method of modulating at  
least one functional activity associated with a viral F protein, said method comprising  
contacting said viral F protein with an effective amount of an F protein modulatory agent  
for a time and under conditions sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

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Yet still another further aspect of the present invention relates to a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an agent, which agent is capable of down-regulating at least one functional activity of the F protein expressed by said virus, for a time and under conditions sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

In still yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof and/or a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent a mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule for a time and under conditions sufficient for said composition to down-regulate said viral F protein functional activity.

In another aspect the present invention relates to the use of an agent capable of modulating at least one functional activity of a viral F protein, which agent is identified and/or generated in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

In still another aspect the present invention relates to the use of a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.



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In another aspect the present invention relates to the use of an agent, which agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined, in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of at least one viral F protein associated functional activity.

- 5 Yet another aspect relates to agents for use in modulating the functional activity of a viral F protein wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined.

- 10 Still yet another aspect relates to agents for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined.

- 15 Yet still another aspect relates to a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

- 20 In yet another aspect the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an active ingredient, as hereinbefore defined, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

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Single and three letter abbreviations used throughout the specification are defined in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**

5

**Single and three letter amino acid abbreviations**

	Amino Acid	Three-letter Abbreviation	One-letter Symbol
10	Alanine	Ala	A
	Arginine	Arg	R
	Asparagine	Asn	N
	Aspartic acid	Asp	D
	Cysteine	Cys	C
15	Glutamine	Gln	Q
	Glutamic acid	Glu	E
	Glycine	Gly	G
	Histidine	His	H
	Isoleucine	Ile	I
20	Leucine	Leu	L
	Lysine	Lys	K
	Methionine	Met	M
	Phenylalanine	Phe	F
	Proline	Pro	P
25	Serine	Ser	S
	Threonine	The	T
	Tryptophan	Trp	W
	Tyrosine	Tyr	Y
	Valine	Val	V
30	Any residue	Xaa	X

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**Figure 1a** is a schematic representation of the 574 amino acid sequence of the human RSV fusion protein F. Amino acid numbers 1-22 comprises the signal sequence. The F2 subunit comprises amino acid numbers 23-130. The fusion cleavage (site 1) is amino acid numbers 131-136. Site 2 comprises residues 106-109. The F1 subunit comprises residues 136-574. The transmembrane domain is believed to span residues 525-548. The cytoplasmic domain comprises residues 549-574.

**Figure 1b** is a schematic representation of the amino acid sequence of the 524 residue soluble F protein. This protein is referred to as F<sub>sol</sub>. F<sub>sol</sub> is formed by expressing the coding sequence for F minus the residues encoding the transmembrane domain and the cytoplasmic domain of F.

**Figure 1c** is a schematic representation of F and F<sub>sol</sub>. Cleavage positions of site 1 and site 2 are designated. Hydrophobic regions are shaded in black (from left to right, signal sequence, fusion peptide and transmembrane domain). Downward facing flags designate positions of potential N-linked glycosylation sites. The 24 amino acid region bounded by cleavage sites 1 and 2 is shown as a cross-hatched region.

20

**Figure 2a** is a schematic representation of the alignment of sequences coding for the human RSV F protein. F.viral refers to the sequence as found in wild type A2 RSV strain. F refers to the sequence which differs in 27/1725 positions from the viral sequence. Those changes were made in order to introduce unique restriction sites to the sequence. F.opt. refers to the F coding sequence which has been changed to allow for higher expression levels as outlined in the accompanying application. A total of 378/1725 nucleotides have been changed from the F.viral sequence. Underneath the boxed sequence a consensus sequence is shown.

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**Figure 2b** is a schematic representation of the alignment of sequences coding for the human RSV  $F_{sol}$  protein.  $F_{sol}$ .viral refers to the sequence as found in the wild type A2 RSV strain.  $F_{sol}$  refers to the sequence which differs from the viral sequence in 24/1575 nucleotides. All of these changes were incorporated to introduce unique restriction sites.

5  $F_{sol}$ .opt. refers to the  $F_{sol}$  coding sequence optimised as described herein. A total of 334/1575 nucleotides have been changed. A consensus is shown under the boxed sequences.

**Figures 3a and b** are schematic representations of the DNA sequences optimised for expression as cloned in the expression vector pCICO.F.FL.opt (a) and pCICO.F.opt (b).

10 The plasmid pCICO.F.FL.opt contains the sequence referred to in Figure 2a as F.opt.. The plasmid pCICO.F.opt contains the sequence referred to in Figure 2b as  $F_{sol}$ .opt. 5' and 3' untranslated sequences not included in the Figure 2 sequences are shown in this Figure.

15 **Figures 4a and b** are schematic representations of the construction of F and  $F_{sol}$  expression vectors. These diagrams describe in detail the steps involved in constructing expression vectors pCICO.F.FL.opt and pCICO.F.opt. See text of examples for details. As previously noted pCICO.F.FL.opt contains the optimised sequence F.opt. (Figure 2a) and pCICO.F.opt contains the optimised sequence  $F_{sol}$ .opt (Figure 2b).

20

**Figure 5** is an image of an autoradiograph of a 10% SDS-PAGE gel of a immunoprecipitation of 35-S labelled supernatants from 293 cells transfected with lane (a) pCICO.FS3 (containing viral  $F_{sol}$  sequence) lane (b) pCICO.F.opt (containing optimised  $F_{sol}$  sequence). Lane (c) is from mock-transfected cells. Lane (d) contains radioactively

25 labelled molecular weight markers. The  $F_{sol}$  protein migrates at approximately 60 kd in size.

**Figure 6** is a schematic representation of the alignment of sequences coding for the human RSV F protein. F.viral refers to the sequence as found in wild type A2 RS strain

30 (<400>571). F.nat refers to the sequence found in a RSV A2 cDNA clone assembled in these studies (<400>572). The two sequences differ in two places (nt 174 and 222) which

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does not effect the coding potential. Underneath the boxed sequence a consensus sequence is shown (<400>573).

**Figure 7** is a western blot of protein samples derived from 293 cells transfected with WT  
5 (pCICO.F.FL.opt), A2 (pCICO.F.nat) and Ctrl (control) plasmids. Cells were havested at  
24, 48 and 72 hours post transfection. Cell lysates were analysed by 12% polyacrylamide  
SDS-PAGE and after electrophoresis proteins were electroblotted onto a nitrocellulose  
membrane. F protein was detected as described in example 5. The immuno-reactive F  
bands F1 and F1' are indicated by arrows. The position of molecular weight markers is  
10 shown.

**Figure 8** is photographs of 293 cells transfected with pCICO.F.FL.opt (a), pCICO.F.nat  
(b) and control plasmid (c). Photographs were taken 48 hours post transfection and the  
magnification is 400X. Figures a, b and c flow from top to bottom.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is predicated, in part, on the development of a negative sense single stranded RNA viral protein expression system based on optimisation of expression of the viral protein encoding nucleic acid sequence such that expression of the subject nucleic acid molecule sequence by a given eukaryotic host cell is facilitated and/or improved. In a related aspect, the inventors have identified a novel cleavage site in the F viral protein, the cleavage of which is thought to be essential for the generation of a fully functionally active F protein. These developments now permit the recombinant production of viral proteins and the identification and design of agents for use in modulating functional activity of the subject proteins.

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Reference to a "negative sense single stranded RNA virus" should be understood as a reference to any negative sense single stranded RNA virus, and includes, but is not limited to, viruses of the family Paramyxoviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Filoviridae, Orthomyxoviridae, Bunyaviridae or Arenaviridae. Preferably, said negative sense single stranded RNA virus is of the family Paramyxoviridae. Without limiting the present invention to any one theory or mode of action, viruses of the family Paramyxoviridae are cytoplasm replicating viruses. In this regard, RNA replication involves mRNA transcription from the genomic RNA via the virion transcriptase. Utilising the protein products of this transcription, there follows the production of a full length positive stranded template which is used for the synthesis of genomic RNA. The genome is transcribed from the the 3' end by virion associated enzymes into mRNAs. Replication takes place in the cytoplasm and assembly occurs via budding on the plasma membrane. The subject budding occurs through the host cell plasma membrane at sites containing the virus envelope proteins.

- 25 -

Accordingly, there is more particularly provided a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for  
5 expression by a eukaryotic host cell.

Still more preferably, said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae and most preferably said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

10 Reference to a "protein from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus" should be understood as a reference to any protein which is expressed by the subject virus or a derivative of said protein. Examples of proteins include, but are not limited to, nucleocapsid associated proteins such as RNA binding proteins (e.g. N, NP), phosphoproteins (e.g. P), polymerase proteins (e.g. L), or envelope proteins (e.g. F, G, H,  
15 HN or SH). It should be understood that the subject protein may exist, in its naturally occurring form, either in isolation or fused or otherwise linked to any other proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecule. Preferably, the subject protein is a fusion protein, N, P or SH.

20 Accordingly, in one embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, which protein directly or indirectly facilitates fusion of any one or more viral components with any one or more host cell components, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence  
25 of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Reference to a viral protein which "directly or indirectly facilitates fusion of any one or more viral components with any one or more host cell components" should be understood as a reference to any viral protein which functions to induce or otherwise contribute to the  
30 fusion of one or more viral molecules (such as a protein or structural component) with any one or more host cell molecules. It should be understood that this activity may comprise

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any one of a number of functional activities attributable to the subject protein, which other activities are not necessarily related to fusion. It should also be understood that the subject functional activity may either directly facilitate fusion or it may induce or otherwise contribute to the functioning of an unrelated molecule, which unrelated molecule directly  
5 facilitates the subject fusion. Preferably the viral protein is an F protein.

This embodiment of the present invention is therefore more particularly directed to a method of facilitating production of a F protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid  
10 molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Reference to a "F protein" should be understood as a reference to the viral molecule which, *inter alia*, facilitates fusion between the virus envelope and the host cell plasma membrane  
15 of infected cells. The term "F protein" should be understood to encompass all forms of F protein including, for example, any mutant, polymorphic or homologous forms of F protein. Without limiting the present invention in any way, the F protein generally comprises, at the amino terminus, an F2 portion which is linked to an F1 portion. The F1 contains a transmembrane region of the molecule which is, in turn, linked to an  
20 extracellular portion of the F protein. The cytoplasmic portion of the F protein comprises the carboxy terminus. As detailed earlier, the F protein is generally synthesised in a precursor form which is activated by proteolytic cleavage at the F2/F1 junction. It is though that this cleavage step reveals a fusion peptide which interacts with the host cell. The F2/F1 junction of the respiratory syncytial virus F protein is shown in Figure 1.

25

In another embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of a N protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said N protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for  
30 expression by a eukaryotic cell.



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In yet another preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of a P protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said P protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is  
5 optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

In still yet another preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of a SH protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule  
10 encoding said SH protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

Preferably, the negative sense single stranded RNA virus of these preferred embodiments of the present invention is a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae. More preferably the  
15 virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae and still more preferably the subject virus is a virus of the genus Pneumovirus. Most preferably, the virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

To the extent that it is not otherwise specified, reference to a viral "protein" extends to derivatives thereof.

20

"Derivatives" of the subject protein include fragments, parts, portions, mutants, variants and mimetics thereof including fusion proteins. Parts or fragments include, for example, active regions of the subject protein. In one aspect of the present invention, for example, the subject protein is a F protein which does not comprise the transmembrane and  
25 cytoplasmic portions (herein referred to as F<sub>sol</sub>). The F<sub>sol</sub> fragment of the F protein is useful for X-ray crystallography and other forms of modelling for purposes such as rational drug design. Derivatives may be derived from insertion, deletion or substitution of amino acids. Amino acid insertional derivatives include amino and/or carboxylic terminal fusions as well as intrasequence insertions of single or multiple amino acids. Insertional amino  
30 acid sequence variants are those in which one or more amino acid residues are introduced into a predetermined site in the protein although random insertion is also possible with

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suitable screening of the resulting product. Deletional variants are characterised by the removal of one or more amino acids from the sequence. Substitutional amino acid variants are those in which at least one residue in the sequence has been removed and a different residue inserted in its place. An example of substitutional amino acid variants are  
5 conservative amino acid substitutions. Conservative amino acid substitutions typically include substitutions within the following groups: glycine and alanine; valine, isoleucine and leucine; aspartic acid and glutamic acid; asparagine and glutamine; serine and threonine; lysine and arginine; and phenylalanine and tyrosine. Additions to amino acid sequences include fusions with other peptides, polypeptides or proteins.

10

The derivatives include fragments having particular portions of the entire protein fused to peptides, polypeptides or other proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecules.

"Mutants" include variants of the subject protein which variants exhibit modified  
15 sequences, structures and/or functions. For example, the F protein variants described herein, which variants exhibit amino acid sequence alterations leading to altered cleavage properties, fall within the scope of the term "mutants".

The term "protein" should be understood to encompass peptides, polypeptides and  
20 proteins. The protein may be glycosylated or unglycosylated and/or may contain a range of other molecules fused, linked, bound or otherwise associated to the protein such as amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates or other peptides, polypeptides or proteins. Reference hereinafter to a "protein" includes a protein comprising a sequence of amino acids as well as a protein associated with other molecules such as amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates or  
25 other peptides, polypeptides or proteins.

The method of the present invention is predicated on the production of a viral protein by expressing a nucleic acid molecule as herein described. In this regard, the term  
"expressing" should be understood to refer to the transcription and translation of a nucleic  
30 acid molecule resulting in the synthesis of a peptide, polypeptide or protein expression

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product. The synthesis of an expression product via the translation step of nucleic acid molecule expression is herein referred to as "production" of that expression product.

5 The viral protein encoding nucleic acid molecule of the present invention is expressed in a eukaryotic host cell. By "host cell" is meant any eukaryotic cell which can be transformed or transfected with a nucleotide sequence. Preferred eukaryotic host cells are mammalian cells and even more preferably 293 cells and Chinese Hamster Ovary cells.

10 Accordingly, there is provided a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell.

15 Preferably, the subject protein is a fusion protein (more particularly the F protein), N, P or SH.

20 Preferably, the negative sense single stranded RNA virus of these preferred embodiments of the present invention is a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae. More preferably the virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae and still more preferably the subject virus is a virus of the genus Pneumovirus. Most preferably, the virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

25 The nucleic acid molecule which is expressed in accordance with the method of the present invention encodes a viral protein or derivative thereof. By "encodes" is meant that the expression product comprises the subject protein or derivative. However, it should be understood that this is not intended as a restriction in any way on the diversity of the subject expression product other than that it should comprise the subject protein or derivative thereof. For example, the nucleic acid molecule which is introduced into the host cell may encode the protein fused to another protein, peptide or polypeptide (which is  
30 consistent with the definition of protein "derivative" as hereinbefore provided) or the

- 30 -

nucleic acid molecule may encode multiple proteins wherein at least one of those proteins is the subject protein or derivative thereof.

Reference to the subject nucleic acid molecule being "optimised" for expression by a  
5 eukaryotic host cell should be understood as a reference to a nucleic acid molecule which  
has been mutated or otherwise varied such that its recombinant expression by a eukaryotic  
host cell is facilitated. Said "facilitation" includes, but is not limited to, inducing or  
improving levels of protein expression and/or functional activity of the expression product.  
Preferably, said optimisation takes the form of codon optimisation and/or nucleotide splice  
10 site deletion.

By "codon optimisation" is meant that at least one codon of the naturally occurring viral  
protein encoding nucleotide sequence has been altered such that it encodes the same amino  
acid as the naturally occurring codon but uses an alternative codon to that which naturally  
15 encodes the subject amino acid, which alternative codon form is more preferably expressed  
by a eukaryotic cell than the naturally occurring codon form.

The present invention is exemplified herein with respect to the F, P, N and SH proteins, the  
naturally occurring encoding nucleic acid sequences of which are defined in <400>1,  
20 <400>505, <400>508 and <400>511, respectively. Without limiting the present invention  
to any one theory or mode of action, the inventors have determined that eukaryotic  
expression of a viral gene becomes possible where selected A rich and T rich regions of  
the naturally occurring gene are modified to express increased numbers of G rich and C  
rich nucleotides. This is achieved by replacing selected A or T nucleotides with a G or C  
25 nucleotide, respectively. The resultant modified codon, however, preferably encodes the  
same amino acid as that encoded by the naturally occurring codon. With respect to the F  
gene, for example, the codon TTG commences at nucleotide 7 of the naturally occurring  
respiratory syncytial viral F protein encoding nucleic acid sequence (provided in <400>1).  
This codon encodes an L amino acid. In the codon optimised F protein encoding nucleic  
30 acid sequence, represented herein in Figure 2a, the codon TTG is modified to read CTG,  
which modified codon nevertheless encodes the L amino acid. The present invention does

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not, however, relate to the sequence as published by Kuhnle *et al* (1998) insofar as the sequence is used for codon optimisation.

The preferred embodiment of the present invention is to optimise the viral protein  
5 encoding nucleotide sequence such that the naturally occurring viral protein amino acid  
sequence or fragment thereof, is produced. However, it should be understood that it is  
nevertheless within the scope of the present invention to optimise a viral protein encoding  
nucleotide sequence in terms of expressing increased G plus C content, as required to  
achieve efficient mammalian host cell expression, despite the fact that an optimised codon  
10 may thereafter encode an amino acid different to that originally encoded by the codon  
which naturally existed at that position. This may occur, for example, where the newly  
substituted amino acid does not significantly alter the structural and/or functional  
properties which are required of the recombinantly produced protein. For example, certain  
conservative amino acid substitutions may not alter functional properties. Similarly, amino  
15 acid substitutions in regions outside the protein's functionally active regions may be  
acceptable in terms of the use to which the expressed protein is to be put.

In terms of optimising the naturally occurring F protein encoding nucleotide sequence, the  
number of codons which are optimised in any given situation will depend on the object to  
20 be achieved. For example, optimisation of between 1 and 10 codons may be sufficient to  
enable production of a level of eukaryotic host cell expression sufficient for a particular  
purpose. However, in order to achieve still more efficient levels of expression and/or  
expression product functional activity, it may be desirable to optimise a larger number of  
codons. In this regard, in a most preferred embodiment, the optimised F, P, N and SH  
25 protein encoding nucleic acid sequences correspond to the sequences defined in <400>5,  
<400>556, <400>559, and <400>562, respectively. However, it should be understood that  
the present invention extends to the use of derivatives of these sequences.

By "nucleotide splice site deletion" optimisation is meant that the nucleotide sequence  
30 encoding a subject viral protein has been altered to remove one or more potential RNA  
splice sites. Without limiting the present invention to any one theory or mode of action, it

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is thought that inefficient expression of nucleotide sequences derived from negative sense single strand RNA viruses is due, in part, to the presence of RNA splice sites in the subject RNAs. These viruses replicate cytoplasmically in the naturally occurring host cell environment. Accordingly, there is a lack of selective pressure against RNA sequences which comprise one or more such splice sites since the enzymes which splice eukaryotic cell RNA are generally only present in the nucleus. However, since the recombinant expression system of the present invention is based, in one embodiment, on the introduction into a eukaryotic host cell of a DNA molecule encoding the viral protein of interest, the requisite synthesis of DNA complementary to the naturally occurring viral RNA gene would consequently also result in copying of any splice sites present in the RNA. Transcription of these DNAs will occur in the nucleus of the eukaryotic host cell thereby exposing RNA transcribed from the subject DNA to the nuclear RNA splicing enzymes of the host cell.

In terms of optimising the naturally occurring viral protein encoding nucleotide sequence, the number of splice sites which are deleted in any given situation would depend on the object to be achieved. For example, if it is desired to produce the full length viral protein, then all splice sites occurring within the protein coding region of the encoding nucleic acid molecule should be deleted. However, if it is desired to produce only a fragment of the subject protein (for example, the  $F_{so}$  portion of the F protein which, as hereinbefore defined, does not comprise the transmembrane and cytoplasmic regions of the F protein) then only the splice sites within that region need be removed.

Deletion of the subject splice sites is preferably achieved by substituting one or more nucleotides which comprise a splice site recognition sequence such that this sequence is no longer recognised by the relevant RNA splicing enzyme. It should be understood, however, that any other suitable method of mutating the splice site may be utilised within the context of the present invention.

The present invention is therefore preferably directed to a method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said

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method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation and/or nucleotide splice site deletion.

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Preferably, the subject protein is a fusion protein (more particularly the F protein), N, P or SH.

Preferably, the negative sense single stranded RNA virus is a virus of the family  
10 Paramyxoviridae. More preferably the virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae and still more preferably the subject virus is a virus of the genus Pneumovirus. Most preferably, the virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

It should be understood that the present invention extends to the use of derivatives of the  
15 optimised nucleic acid sequences.

Most preferably, said codon optimisation comprises modification of at least one A and/or T comprising codon to express G and C, respectively and said mammalian splice site deletion comprises deletion of at least one RNA splice site. To the extent that the nucleic  
20 acid molecule which is introduced into the host cell is a DNA molecule, the subject deletion would relate to the region of the DNA molecule which would encode the RNA splice site.

By "derivatives" is meant nucleic acid sequences derived from single or multiple  
25 nucleotide substitutions, deletions and/or additions including fusion with other nucleic acid molecules. In accordance with this definition, "derivative" therefore extends to sequences comprising any one or more of the optimised codons and/or optimised splice site regions of <400>5, <400>6, <400>556, <400>559 or <400>562.

30 Reference to a "derivative" of the subject nucleotide sequence should also be understood to extend to nucleotide sequences comprising nucleic acid substitutions, deletions or

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additions other than for the purpose of optimising codons. For example, an optimised viral protein encoding nucleotide sequence may additionally comprises endonuclease restriction sites which are not expressed by the naturally occurring counterpart of the subject sequence. These may be incorporated to facilitate the generation of protein mutants. In  
5 one preferred embodiment, for example, the subject nucleotide sequence derivative comprises one or more of the endonuclease restriction sites expressed in <400>3 or <400>4.

In terms of a most preferred embodiment of the present invention, <400>1 defines the  
10 protein encoding region of the naturally occurring respiratory syncytial virus F protein. <400>3 defines the <400>1 sequence as modified to incorporate endonuclease restriction sites designed to facilitate the generation of protein recombinants. <400>5 defines the F protein encoding nucleotide sequence of <400>3 further modified to minimise the presence of regions which would encode RNA splice sites and to express optimised  
15 codons. The amino acid sequence encoded by these nucleotide sequences is provided in <400>7.

Expression of <400>5 in accordance with the method of the present invention will be sought where production of the full length F protein is required. This may occur, for  
20 example, where expression of a functional molecule is required for the performance of function based screening assays designed to detect F protein modulatory agents. However, in another embodiment, production of a portion only of the F protein may be desired. For example, production of the F<sub>sol</sub> portion is particularly desirable for the purpose of 3 dimensional structural analysis, by X-ray crystallography, of the F protein active regions.  
25 Furthermore, F<sub>sol</sub> portion production facilitates the rational identification, modification and design of F protein modulatory agents based on analysing the agent in terms of its physical interaction with the F2 and F1 portions. In this regard, <400>2 defines the protein encoding region of the naturally occurring respiratory syncytial viral F<sub>sol</sub> portion of the F protein. <400>4 defines the <400>2 sequence as modified to incorporate endonuclease  
30 restriction sites designed to facilitate the generation of protein recombinants. <400>6 defines the F<sub>sol</sub> protein encoding nucleotide sequence of <400>4 further modified to



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minimise the presence of regions which would encode RNA splice sites and to express optimised codons. The amino acid sequence encoded by these nucleotide sequences is provided in <400>8.

- 5 According to this preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is  
10 nucleotide splice site deletion.

- In another preferred embodiment the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a  $F_{sol}$  portion of an F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid  
15 molecule encoding said  $F_{sol}$  portion or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is nucleotide splice site deletion.

- In still another preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production  
20 of F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

- 25 In yet another preferred embodiment the present invention is directed to a method of facilitating production of a  $F_{sol}$  portion of an F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said  $F_{sol}$  portion or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein  
30 said optimisation is codon optimisation.

In another preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is nucleotide splice site deletion and codon optimisation.

In still yet a more preferred embodiment, there is provided a method of facilitating the production of a F protein or derivative thereof from a respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>5 or derivative thereof.

Preferably said nucleotide sequence is substantially as set forth in <400>5.

In another preferred embodiment, there is provided a method of facilitating the production of a F<sub>sol</sub> portion of an F protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>6 or derivative thereof.

Preferably said nucleotide sequence is substantially as set forth in <400>6.

In terms of another most preferred embodiment of the present invention, <400>555 defines the protein encoding region of the naturally occurring respiratory syncytial virus P protein. <400>556 defines the P protein encoding nucleotide sequence of <400>555 as modified to express optimised codons. The amino acid sequence encoded by this nucleotide sequences is provided in <400>554.

According to this preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of P protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said P protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is

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optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

In still a more preferred embodiment, there is provided a method of facilitating the  
5 production of a P protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said  
method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>556  
or derivative thereof.

Preferably said nucleotide sequence is substantially as set forth in <400>556.  
10

In terms of yet another most preferred embodiment of the present invention, <400>558  
defines the protein encoding region of the naturally occurring respiratory syncytial virus N  
protein. <400>559 defines the N protein encoding nucleotide sequence of <400>558 as  
modified to express optimised codons. The amino acid sequence encoded by this  
15 nucleotide sequence is provided in <400>557.

According to this preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating  
production of N protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method  
comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said N  
20 protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is  
optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon  
optimisation.

In still a more preferred embodiment, there is provided a method of facilitating the  
25 production of a N protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said  
method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>559  
or derivative thereof.

Preferably said nucleotide sequence is substantially as set forth in <400>559.  
30

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In terms of still yet another most preferred embodiment of the present invention, <400>561 defines the protein encoding region of the naturally occurring respiratory syncytial virus SH protein. <400>562 defines the N protein encoding nucleotide sequence of <400>561 as modified to express optimised codons. The amino acid sequence encoded by this  
5 nucleotide sequence is provided in <40>560.

According to this preferred embodiment there is provided a method of facilitating production of SH protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a mammalian host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding  
10 said SH protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by said mammalian host cell wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation.

In still a more preferred embodiment, there is provided a method of facilitating the  
15 production of a SH protein or derivative thereof from respiratory syncytial virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell the nucleotide sequence set forth in <400>562 or derivative thereof.

Preferably said nucleotide sequence is substantially as set forth in <400>562.  
20

In terms of performing the present invention, methods of deriving and recombinantly expressing nucleic acid molecules will be well known to those of skill in the art as will methodology directed to adding, deleting and/or substituting nucleic acids in a given nucleotide sequence.

25

In another aspect, the present invention should be understood to extend to the optimised nucleic acid molecules described herein and to the expression products derived therefrom.

In yet another aspect, the inventors have surprisingly determined that induction of F  
30 protein functional activity requires not one but two proteolytic cleavage events. The occurrence of these two cleavage events results in the excision of a peptide region from the

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non-fully functional F protein. Prior to the advent of the present invention, it was thought that F protein activation was the result of a single cleavage event which occurred at the F2/F1 junction. Without limiting the invention to any one theory or mode of action, it is thought that the F2 portion of the non-fully functional F protein in fact comprises an  
5 intervening sequence of amino acids which spans the region between the newly identified cleavage site and the F2/F1 junction and which is excised in order to facilitate formation of a functional F glycoprotein. This intervening peptide sequence is thought to comprise excess amino acids and up to three glycosylation sites depending on the particular virus strain from which the F protein is derived. Down-regulation or other form of interference  
10 with cleavage at the newly identified cleavage site would therefore interfere with the induction of F protein functional activity.

Accordingly, another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form  
15 comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

20

Reference to the subject F protein being in a "non-fully functional form" should be understood to mean that the subject F protein exhibits either no functional activity or a lesser degree of functional activity than the fully cleaved F protein, that is, the F protein which has undergone *both* cleavage events. Accordingly, "up-regulation" of F protein  
25 functional activity should be understood to refer to the induction of a degree or range of functional activities greater than that exhibited by the subject F protein in its non-fully cleaved form. In its natural environment, all F proteins are synthesised in a form which comprises a F2 portion located proximally to a F1 portion. The F1 portion region of the F protein comprises a transmembrane region and an intracellular domain (Collins *et al*,  
30 1996). Reference to a "non-fully functional form" of the F protein should also be understood to extend to forms of the F protein which have undergone only partial cleavage.

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For example, the subject non-fully functional form of the F protein may only have undergone cleavage of the previously known cleavage site but not yet at the newly identified cleavage site.

5 Prior to the advent of the present invention, it was thought that activation of the F protein occurred following cleavage at the F protein site defined by the sequence KKRKRR (<400>563) thereby cleaving the F2 portion of the non-fully functional F protein from the F1 portion. The F1 portion of the F protein is defined, in Figure 1, as commencing at the F residue which follows the cleavage recognition site KKRKRR. However, the precise  
10 location at which this cleavage event occurs is not actually known. Accordingly, it should be understood that the cleavage event may occur either between two residues located proximally to the cleavage recognition site KKRKRR or it may occur between two residues within this site. The definitions of "F2 portion", "F1 portion" and "F2/F1 junction" as provided herein should therefore be interpreted in light of this understanding.

15

As detailed above, the inventors have now determined that cleavage at this region alone will not fully activate the F protein. Rather, a second cleavage event must occur at an F protein site distinct from that of the known cleavage site (the known cleavage site being referred to as "site 1"). This second cleavage site is located in the amino terminus  
20 direction of the previously known cleavage site and is characterised by expression of the cleavage recognition sequence RARR (<400>564) (herein referred to as "site 2"). When considered in light of the structure of the F protein as it was previously understood (and as depicted in Figure 1) site 2 is located within the F2 portion of the F protein while the previously known cleavage site is located at the F2/F1 portion junction.

25

For the purpose of the present invention, it should be understood that the F protein amino acid sequence located in the amino terminus direction of cleavage site 1 is herein referred to as the F2 portion while the amino acid sequence located in the carboxy terminus direction of the cleavage site 1 is herein referred to as the F1 portion. The newly identified  
30 cleavage site is therefore located within the F2 portion. The F protein amino acid sequence located between the site 1 and site 2 points of cleavage is herein referred to as the

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"intervening sequence". Accordingly, in light of the definition herein provided, the "intervening sequence" forms part of the F2 portion of the non-fully functional form of the F protein. Excision of "at least part of" said intervening sequence should be understood to mean that at least a portion of the sequence which is excised following the two cleavage events is derived from the intervening sequence region as herein defined. However, it should be understood that the excised sequence may also comprise part of the non-intervening sequence region of the F2 and/or F1 portion sequences as herein defined.

Without limiting the present invention to any one theory or mode of action, it is thought that cleavage of the intervening sequence at the two cleavage sites results in complete disassociation of the intervening sequence from the F protein. Accordingly, the term "excision" is intended to encompass complete disassociation of the intervening sequence from the non-fully functional form of the F protein in order to form the functionally active F protein. However this term should also be understood to extend to a cleavage event which does not necessarily result in complete disassociation of at least part of the intervening sequence but leads to a conformational change in the secondary or tertiary structure of the intervening sequence and/or the F2/F1 portions. For example, in some circumstances an appropriate conformational shift in the intervening sequence relative to the F2 and F1 portions may be sufficient to achieve some up-regulation of the functional activity of the F protein. It should also be understood that the two cleavage events may occur concurrently in order to effect excision. Alternatively, the cleavage events may occur consecutively. For example, cleavage at site 1 may occur initially, followed by cleavage at site 2 (and hence formation of the fully functional form of the F protein) at a subsequent point in time. The present invention should also be understood to extend to a sequence of cleavage events commencing with cleavage at site 2.

The present invention is exemplified with respect to respiratory syncytial virus F protein. The respiratory syncytial virus F protein amino acid sequence is defined <400>7. In accordance with the amino acid sequence numbering provided in <400>7, the previously known cleavage site is located at the region of the F protein defined by the amino acid sequence KKRKRR, which sequence spans amino acid numbers 131 to 136 of <400>7.

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The second cleavage point, which has been identified by the present inventors, is localised to the region of the F protein defined by the amino acid sequence RARR, which sequence spans amino acid numbers 106-109 of <400>7.

- 5 In a preferred embodiment the present invention is directed to a method of regulating the functional activity of a Paramyxoviridae derived F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of  
10 at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

Still more preferably said F protein is derived from the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

15

- In a most preferred embodiment there is provided a method of regulating the functional activity of a respiratory syncytial virus F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising  
20 modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence, wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity and wherein said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by the peptide sequences RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

25

- That the subject cleavage events "occur at" a given cleavage site should be understood to mean that cleavage of the F protein amino acid sequence will involve cleavage of the bonding mechanism associated with anyone or more of the amino acids comprising the defined sites. Without limiting the invention in any way, the amino acids comprising the  
30 cleavage sites define the peptide sequence recognised by the proteolytic enzyme which cleaves the subject F protein (Steiner, 1998).



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In a related aspect, the present invention provides a method of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises the structure:

5           X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>

wherein:

          X<sub>1</sub> comprises the non-intervening peptide sequence region of the F<sub>2</sub> portion;

          X<sub>2</sub> comprises the intervening peptide sequence region of the F<sub>2</sub> portion; and

10          X<sub>3</sub> comprises the F<sub>1</sub> portion

said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully functional form of said F protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

15

The representation X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub> is not to be taken as imposing any sequential constraints on the subject F protein and the present invention encompasses any conformational secondary and/or tertiary structural arrangement of X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub> to the extent that X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>3</sub> are both linked, bound or otherwise associated with X<sub>2</sub> in the subject F protein's non-fully  
20 functional form.

Reference to the "non-intervening peptide sequence region" of F<sub>2</sub> should be understood as a reference to that part of the F<sub>2</sub> subunit which does not form part of the intervening sequence as herein defined.

25

Preferably said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae and still more preferably is a virus of the Genus Pneumovirus. Most preferably said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

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In another preferred embodiment said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites comprising X<sub>2</sub> and defined by the peptide sequences RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

5 Modulating cleavage of the intervening sequence can be achieved by any one of a number of methods including, but in no way limited to:

(i) Contacting the F protein or F protein encoding nucleic acid molecule with a proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecule (herein referred to as an "agent")  
10 which up-regulates or down-regulates cleavage of either one or both of the cleavage sites comprising the intervening sequence. The proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecule may achieve this objective by functioning as either an agonist or antagonist of the cleavage event, for example. This molecule may act in any one of a number of ways including interacting with the subject F protein or  
15 interacting with the enzymes which recognise the cleavage sites comprising the F protein.

(ii) Mutating the amino acid sequence of the F protein cleavage site such that proteolytic cleavage cannot occur. This can be performed at either the amino acid  
20 sequence level (for example by adding, substituting or deleting an amino acid in the newly identified cleavage site) or at the nucleotide level such that the transcribed and translated F protein expression product does not express a functional form of the subject cleavage site.

25 Said proteinaceous molecule may be derived from natural or recombinant sources including fusion proteins or following, for example, natural product screening. Said non-proteinaceous molecule may be, for example, a nucleic acid molecule or may be derived from natural sources, such as for example natural product screening or may be chemically synthesised. The present invention contemplates chemical analogues of the F protein  
30 capable of acting as agonists or antagonists of either the fully functional or non-fully functional F protein. Chemical agonists may not necessarily be derived from the F protein

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but may share certain conformational similarities. Alternatively, chemical agonists may be specifically designed to mimic certain physiochemical properties of the F protein. Antagonists may be any compound capable of blocking, inhibiting or otherwise preventing F protein from carrying out its normal biological function. Antagonists include  
5 monoclonal antibodies specific for the F protein, or parts of the F protein, and antisense nucleic acids which prevent transcription and/or translation of the F protein encoding nucleic acid molecule or mRNA in mammalian cells.

Although the preferred method is to inhibit, retard or otherwise down-regulate F protein  
10 functional activity by preventing cleavage of the non-fully functional F protein form and subsequent activation, up-regulation of F protein functional activity may be desired in certain circumstances. In this regard, use of agonistic agents which augment and/or induce the cleavage events herein described may be utilised. Reference to "down-regulating" F protein functional activity should be understood to encompass prevention of the functional  
15 activation of the non-fully functional F protein.

Accordingly, in a most preferred embodiment there is provided a method of inhibiting, retarding or otherwise down-regulating the functional activity of a Paramyxoviridae derived F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion  
20 linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising inhibiting or otherwise down-regulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence.

Preferably said F protein is derived from the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably  
25 said virus is respiratory syncytial virus. Most preferably said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by peptide sequences RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

In another most preferred embodiment the present invention provides a method of down-  
30 regulating the functional activity of a Paramyxoviradae derived F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises the structure:

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 $X_1X_2X_3$ 

wherein:

- 5            $X_1$  comprises the non-intervening peptide sequence region of the F2 portion;  
             $X_2$  comprises the intervening peptide sequence region of the F2 portion; and  
             $X_3$  comprises the F1 portion

said method comprising inhibiting or otherwise down-regulating cleavage of said  
10 intervening peptide sequence.

Preferably said F protein is derived from the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably  
said virus is respiratory syncytial virus. Most preferably said cleavage events occur at the  
cleavage sites defined by peptide sequences RARR (<400>564) and KKRRR  
15 (<400>563).

Without limiting the present invention to any one theory or mode of action, the F proteins  
of viruses of the family Paramyxoviridae are involved in facilitating fusion between the  
virus envelope and the host cell plasma membrane in order to effect infection. Further, it  
20 is thought that the F proteins are also inserted into the host plasma membrane where,  
during maturation, the virions bud through the region of the membrane containing these  
proteins. Accordingly, it is thought that down-regulating F protein functional activity will  
inhibit or otherwise reduce virion fusion with and infection of a potential host cell and/or  
virion budding. Accordingly, the development of a method for recombinantly expressing  
25 the F protein by eukaryotic cells, and in particular mammalian cells, now facilitates the  
development of screening assays, utilising the F protein produced in accordance with the  
method of the present invention, for the purpose of identifying agents capable of  
modulating F protein functional activity, and preferably, down-regulating F protein  
functional activity.

30

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Screening for agents which modulate F protein functional activity can be achieved by any one of a number of suitable methods, which would be known to those of skill in the art, including but not limited to:

- 5 (i) High throughput screening for agents which modulate F protein functional activities utilising assays based on the detection of changes in F protein functioning. Such changes may be detected directly or indirectly.

10 An example of indirect detection of modulation of F protein functioning includes the screening of agents on cultured cells which have been co-transfected with the F protein encoding nucleic acid molecule of the present invention and a virus which utilises the F protein in order to propagate. In this regard, either the full length F protein encoding nucleic acid sequence can be utilised or a partial sequence which encodes a functionally active F protein portion can be used. By assessing cell  
15 viability it can be determined whether the subject agent inhibits or down-regulates F protein functioning thereby preventing F protein mediated propagation of cell to cell fusion. This would be evident by continued cell viability. A typical assay of this type can be performed, for example, in 293 cells which have been transiently co-transfected with a plasmid encoding the adenoviral VA RNA genes.

20

(ii) Antibody Recognition Assays

The use of antibodies which bind to conformational epitopes is a recognised method for assessing whether a protein's three dimensional structure differs from  
25 the natural state. Thus an assay can be conducted on protein exposed to agents that are expected to modulate function via perturbation of the native conformation or interference with a functional conformational transition. A number of suitable F-specific antibodies and their target sites have been identified by workers in the field (see for example Lopez et al., 1998 and references therein). For example, F protein  
30 exposed to agents intended to modulate F function is subsequently incubated with F specific monoclonal antibodies using an ELISA format. Reduction or increase in F binding relative to F which has not been exposed to agents is measured by addition

of polyclonal antibody to F followed by suitable detection reagents according to standard methods.

(iii) Immunisation leading to protection and/or virus neutralisation

5 RSV is known to infect a wide range of animal species when inoculated experimentally into the respiratory tract and several small animal experimental models have been described (see for example Collins et al., 1996 and references therein). These models can be used to determine whether immunisation is  
10 protective and/or results in the production of a virus neutralising response.

An example of a suitable method is as follows: Cotton rats (average weight 100 g) are anesthetized with methoxyflurane and a sample of pre-immune blood harvested via standard procedures. While anesthetized, the cotton rats are administered a  
15 suitable quantity of agent (for example, purified F protein) via an appropriate route (for example, intramuscular injection or intranasal instillation). The cotton rats are housed for an appropriate period (generally several days to weeks depending on the agents under consideration and the objectives of the study) and then anesthetized as above. Anesthetized animals are bled to obtain a post-immunization sample and  
20 infected with 100,000 plaque forming units of a suitable RSV strain (for example, RSV Long). Four days later the animals are sacrificed and lungs harvested aseptically. Protective efficacy of the agent is measured by determination of the effect on whole lung virus titre. Briefly, lungs are homogenised in sterile saline (1:10 w/v) and virus concentration determined by standard methods (for example,  
25 plaque assay).

To determine whether the agent elicited a neutralising response, pre-immunization and post-immunization samples and control samples are examined using a virus neutralization test. An example of such a test is as follows. Sera are prepared from  
30 the blood samples according to standard methods. Serial dilutions of the sera are then prepared and mixed with a known concentration of RSV (for example, 100 plaque forming units of RSV Long). Mixtures are incubated for 1 hour at room temperature before being assayed for virus concentration by standard methods (for

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example, plaque assay). A neutralizing response is characterised by reduction in virus titre in comparison to control samples.

Accordingly, in another aspect there is provided a method for detecting an agent capable of  
5 regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a eukaryotic cell expressing an optimised nucleic acid molecule encoding said viral F protein or derivative thereof, as hereinbefore described, with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or functional activity.

10

It should be understood that the subject agent may act via any mechanism including, but not limited to, modulating the cleavage events hereinbefore described.

In yet another aspect there is provided a method for detecting an agent capable of  
15 regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a host cell, which host cell expresses a nucleic acid molecule encoding the non-fully functional form of said viral F protein or derivative thereof as hereinbefore described, with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or altered functional activity wherein said agent modulates  
20 cleavage of the intervening peptide sequence.

To the extent that this aspect of the present invention is directed to screening for agents which modulate the site 2 cleavage event, it should be understood that this methodology is not limited to systems expressing an optimised nucleic acid sequence but extends to  
25 systems utilising any method of expressing the subject F protein.

Reference to a "modulatory agent" should be understood as a reference to an agent which down-regulates, up regulates or otherwise alters at least one functional activity of the subject F protein. For example, the agent may increase or decrease the level of activity of  
30 the F protein or it may entirely inhibit F protein functioning. Although the preferred method is to identify agents which inhibit F protein functional activity, for example by

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preventing cleavage of the non-fully functional form of the F protein, thereby providing a potential antiviral therapy, the identification of agents which up regulate F protein functional activity may be desired in certain circumstances. For example, it is thought that an agent which causes the F protein to prematurely initiate the conformational changes  
5 required for fusion would be inactivating.

Still more preferably, said viral F protein is a Pneumovirus F protein and yet still more preferably a respiratory syncytial virus F protein. Most preferably, said codon optimised nucleic acid molecule is the nucleic acid molecule defined in <400>5.

10

Preferably, said regulation is inhibition, retardation or other form of down-regulation.

Reference to "functional activity" should be understood as a reference to any one or more of the functions which the F protein performs. Accordingly, an agent which modulates the  
15 functional activity of the F protein may modulate all or only some of the functions which the F protein performs. The phrase "functional activity" should be understood to include within its scope the cleavage events which the F protein undergoes.

In addition to screening for agents which modulate F protein functional activity utilising  
20 function based assays of the type described above, the development of methodology which facilitates production of the F protein or derivatives thereof also facilitates the screening, analysis, rational design and/or modification of agents for modulating F protein functional activity based on analysis of the physical interaction of a putative agent or lead compound with the subject F protein or derivative thereof.

25

Specifically, *in vitro* production of the F protein or derivative thereof, which is now possible in light of the development of the present invention, now facilitates analysis of the tertiary structure of the F protein by techniques such as X-ray crystallography. Of particular value in this regard is the fact that the present invention permits production of  
30 useful quantities of the F protein F<sub>sol</sub> portion.



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Accordingly, another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method for analysing, designing and/or modifying an agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein or derivative thereof and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said protein, which protein is produced in accordance with the method of the present invention  
5 said method comprising contacting said F protein or derivative thereof with a putative agent and assessing the degree of interactive complementarity of said agent with said protein.

Preferably said viral F protein is a Pneumovirus F protein and even more preferably the F<sub>sol</sub> portion of said Pneumovirus F protein. Still more preferably, said F<sub>sol</sub> portion is defined by  
10 the amino acid sequence of <400>8.

It should be understood that the F protein which is contacted with the putative agent for evaluation of interactive complementarity may be recombinantly produced. However, it should also be understood that the subject protein may take the form of an image based on  
15 the structure elucidated via analysis of the F protein produced in accordance with the method of the present invention, such as an electron density map, molecular models (including, but not limited to, stick, ball and stick, space filling or surface representation models) or other digital or non-digital surface representation models or image, which facilitates the analysis of F protein: agent interactions utilising techniques and software  
20 which would be known to those of skill in the art. For example, interaction analyses can be performed utilising techniques such as Biacore real-time analysis of on and off-rates and dissociation constants for binding of ligands (Gardsvoll *et al*, 1999; Hoyer-Hansen *et al*, 1997; Ploug, 1998; Ploug *et al*, 1994; 1995; 1998) and NMR perturbation studies (Stephens *et al*, 1992).

25

Reference to "assessing the degree of interactive complementarity" of an agent with the subject F protein should be understood as a reference to elucidating any feature of interest including, but not limited to, the nature and/or degree of interaction between the subject F protein and an agent of interest. As detailed above, any suitable technique can be utilised.  
30 Such techniques would be known to the person of skill in the art and can be utilised in this regard. In terms of the nature of the subject interaction, it may be desirable to assess the

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types of interactive mechanisms which occur between specific residues of any given agent and those of the F protein (for example, peptide bonding or formation of hydrogen bonds, ionic bonds, van der Waals forces, etc.) and/or their relative strengths. It may also be desirable to assess the degree of interaction which occurs between an agent of interest and the subject F protein. For example, by analysing the location of actual sites of interaction between the subject agent and F protein it is possible to determine the quality of fit of the agent into any region of the F protein and the relative strength and stability of that binding interaction. For example, if it is the object that F protein functioning be blocked, an agent which interacts with the F protein such that it blocks or otherwise hinders (for example, sterically hinders or chemically or electrostatically repels) F2/F1 cleavage will be sought. The form of association which is required in relation to modulating F protein functioning may not involve the formation of any interactive bonding mechanism, as this is traditionally understood, but may involve a non-bonding mechanism such as the proximal location of a region of the agent relative to the subject binding region of the F protein, for example, to effect steric hindrance with respect to the binding of an activating molecule. Where the interaction takes the form of hindrance or the creation of other repulsive forces, this should nevertheless be understood as a form of "interaction" despite the lack of formation of any of the traditional forms of bonding mechanisms.

It should also be understood that the F protein which is utilised either in a physical form or as an image, as hereinbefore discussed, to assess the interactive complementarity of a putative agent may be a naturally occurring form of the F protein or it may be a derivative, homologue, analogue, mutant, fragment or equivalent thereof. The derivative, homologue, analogue, mutant, fragment or equivalent thereof may take either a physical or non-physical (such as an image) form.

The determination of F protein binding regions has been made possible only by development of the present invention which has permitted F protein production and thereby has facilitated determination of the three dimensional structure of the F protein and the identification and/or rational modification and design of agents which can be used to modulate F protein functioning.

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Without limiting the application of the present invention in any way, the method of the present invention facilitates the analysis, design and/or modification of agents capable of interacting with the F protein. In this regard, reference to "analysis, design and/or modification" of an agent should be understood in its broadest sense to include:

- 5
- (i) Randomly screening (for example, utilising routine high-throughput screening technology) to identify agents which exhibit some modulatory capacity with respect to F protein functional activity and then analysing the precise nature and magnitude of the agent's modulatory capacity utilising the method of this aspect of
- 10 the present invention. In this regard, existing crystals could be soaked with said agents or co-crystallisation could be performed. A combination of modelling and synthetic modification of the local compound together with mutagenesis of the F protein could then be performed for example. In screening for agents which may modulate activity, standard methods of phage display and also combinatorial
- 15 chemistry may be utilised (Goodson *et al.*, 1994; Terrett., 2000). Such interaction studies can also be furthered utilising techniques such as the Biacore analysis and NMR perturbation studies. Such agents are often commonly referred to as "lead" agents in terms of the random screening of proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecules for their capacity to function either agonistically or antagonistically.
- 20 Further, for example, binding affinity and specificity could be enhanced by modifying lead agents to maximise interactions with the F protein. Such analyses would facilitate the selection of agents which are the most suitable for a given purpose. In this way, the selection step is based not only on *in vitro* data but also on a technical analysis of sites of agent: F protein interaction in terms of their
- 25 frequency, stability and suitability for a given purpose. For example, such analysis may reveal that what appears to be an acceptable *in vitro* activity in respect of a randomly identified agent is in fact induced by a highly unstable interaction due to the presence of proximally located agent: F protein sites which exhibit significant repulsive forces thereby de-stabilising the overall interaction between the agent and
- 30 the F protein. This would then facilitate the selection of another prospective lead compound, exhibiting an equivalent degree of *in vitro* activity, but which agent

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does not, upon further analysis, involve the existence of such de-stabilising repulsive forces.

5 Screening for the modulatory agents herein defined can be achieved by any one of several suitable methods, including in silico methods, which would be well known to those of skill in the art and which are, for example, routinely used to randomly screen proteinaceous and non-proteinaceous molecules for the purpose of identifying lead compounds.

10 These methods provide a mechanism for performing high throughput screening of putative modulatory agents such as the proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous agents comprising synthetic, recombinant, chemical and natural libraries.

(ii) 15 The candidate or lead agent (for example, the agent identified in accordance with the methodology described in relation to point (i)) could be modified in order to maximise desired interactions (for example, binding affinity to specificity) with the F protein and to minimise undesirable interactions (such as repulsive or otherwise de-stabilising interactions). Such modification is only possible in light of knowledge of the three-dimensional structure of the F protein and the capacity 20 therefore to identify regions of functional importance, thereby facilitating the structural modification of an agent to maximise an agonistic or antagonistic interaction. Such methodology is particularly applicable to rational drug design.

25 Methods of modification of a candidate or lead agent in accordance with the purpose as defined herein would be well known to those of skill in the art. For example, a molecular replacement program such as Amore (Navaza, 1994) may be utilised in this regard. The method of the present invention also facilitates the mutagenesis of known signal inducing agents in order to ablate or improve signalling activity.

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- (iii) In addition to analysing fit and/or structurally modifying existing molecules, the method of the present invention also facilitates the rational design and synthesis of an agent, such as an agonistic or antagonistic agent, based on theoretically modelling an agent exhibiting the desired F protein interactive structural features followed by the synthesis and testing of the subject agent.

It should be understood that any one or more of applications (i) – (iii) above, may be utilised in identifying a particular agent.

- 10 In a related aspect, the present invention should be understood to extend to the agents identified utilising any of the methods hereinbefore defined. In this regard, reference to an agent should be understood as a reference to any proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecule which modulates at least one F protein functional activity. As hereinbefore discussed, to the extent that the present invention encompasses methods of screening for agents utilising F proteins produced in accordance with the expression system hereinbefore defined, this is not to be taken as a restriction on the methodology which is employed to screen for agents which modulate the newly identified cleavage event. In this regard, the present invention extends to agents identified utilising F protein molecules or derivatives thereof howsoever produced.

20

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to an agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said viral protein.

- 25 Preferably, said agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined.

More preferably, said agent is an antagonist which interacts with a sequence selected from:

CFASGQNITE <400>9  
ASGQNITEEF <400>11  
GQNITEEFYQ <400>13  
NITEEFYQST <400>15  
TEEFYQSTCS <400>17

FASGQNITEE <400>10  
SGQNITEEFY <400>12  
QNITEEFYQS <400>14  
ITEEFYQSTC <400>16  
EEFYQSTCSA <400>18

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STCSAVSKGY <400>23  
CSAVSKGYLS <400>25  
AVSKGYLSAL <400>27  
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GYLSALRTGW <400>31  
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ALRTGWYTSV <400>35  
RTGWYTSVIT <400>37  
GWYTSVITIE <400>39  
YTSVITIELS <400>41  
SVITIELSNI <400>43  
ITIELSNIKK <400>45  
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KLIKQELDKY <400>65  
IKQELDKYKN <400>67  
QELDKYKNAV <400>69  
LDKYKNAVTE <400>71  
KYKNAVTELQ <400>73  
KNAVTELQLL <400>75  
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TELQLLMQST <400>79  
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LLMQSTQATN <400>83  
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FLGFLGVGSA <400>125

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SAVSKGYLSA <400>26  
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TSKVL D LK NY <400>177  
KVL D LK NY ID <400>179  
LDL K NY ID K Q <400>181  
L K NY ID K Q L L <400>183  
N Y ID K Q L L P I <400>185  
I D K Q L L P I V N <400>187  
K Q L L P I V N K Q <400>189  
L L P I V N K Q S C <400>191  
P I V N K Q S C S I <400>193  
V N K Q S C S I S N <400>195  
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LSGINNIAFS <400>552

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Even more preferably said antagonist interacts with a sequence selected from <400>88, <400>89, <400>90, <400>91, <400>92, <400>93 or <400>94.

- 5 Reference to "interacts" should be understood as a reference to any form of interaction including, but not limited to covalent bonds, hydrogen bonds, ionic bonds, van der Waals forces or any other interactive bonding mechanism.

Still without limiting the present invention to any one theory or mode of action the  
10 inventors have determined that inhibition or other form of interference with cleavage at the newly identified cleavage site disclosed herein interferes with F protein functioning. Further, it is thought that the intervening sequence exhibits relevance in relation to immune recognition. Specifically, it is thought that F proteins engineered to either retain the intervening sequence or which are engineered such that the intervening sequence is  
15 removed altogether exhibit altered but improved immunogenicity. Although not wishing to be constrained by theory, it is thought that in the normal physiological setting, the intervening sequence which is excised following formation of the fully functional F glycoprotein serves as an immune decoy thereby obstructing or otherwise inhibiting the induction of an immune response against the fully functional F protein.

20

Accordingly, mutating the cleavage sites comprising the F protein (at either the amino acid or encoding nucleic acid level) provides a useful tool for producing molecules which are engineered to retain the intervening sequence and which cannot undergo the normal cleavage event in order to generate the fully functional F protein. These molecules are  
25 useful in a range of applications including, but not limited to, as an immunogen for use in a vaccination protocol. In addition to producing a F protein variant which cannot be cleaved, identification by the inventors of the second cleavage site now enables the synthesis of F protein molecules which lack the intervening sequence as herein defined. This is particularly useful since it is thought that the F protein which lacks the intervening  
30 sequence, but which intervening sequence was not released into the circulation of the subject, will exhibit better immunogenicity than the naturally occurring F protein.

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Accordingly, in another aspect there is provided a viral F protein variant comprising a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits modulated functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

5

More particularly, there is provided a viral F protein variant comprising a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

10

Reference to "intervening peptide sequence" should be understood to have the same meaning as hereinbefore defined.

Reference to "wild type" F protein is a reference to the forms of F protein which are  
15 predominantly expressed by negative sense single stranded RNA viruses. This should be understood to include reference to the uncleaved form of the F protein, the functional activity of which includes the capacity to undergo cleavage and excision of the intervening sequence, and the fully functional F protein in respect of which the intervening sequence has been excised. It should be understood that to the extent that the subject variant  
20 molecule comprises all or part of the intervening sequence, modulation of its functional activity should be assessed relative to the wild type F protein which still comprises the intervening sequence. Conversely, a variant F protein which does not comprise the intervening sequence should be assessed relative to the cleaved wild type F protein. In this regard, reference to "functional activity" should be understood as a reference to any one or  
25 more of the functional activities which the subject F protein can perform including, but not limited to, its capacity to undergo cleavage or its capacity to induce an immune response.

Reference to "mutation" should be understood as a reference to any change, alteration or other modification, whether occurring naturally or non-naturally, which results in the  
30 subject F protein exhibiting functional activity which is modulated relative to that of the corresponding wild type F protein.

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The change, alteration or other modification may take any form including, but not limited to, a structural modification (such as an alteration secondary, tertiary or quaternary structure of the F protein molecule), a molecular modification (such as an addition substitutional deletion of one or more amino acids from the F protein) or a chemical  
5 modification. The subject modification should also be understood to extend to the fusion, linking or binding of a proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecule to the F protein or to the nucleic acid molecule encoding the F protein thereby rendering the expression product functionally distinctive over the corresponding wild type F protein. It should also be understood that although it is necessary that the subject mutation is expressed by the F  
10 protein expression product, the creation of the mutation may be achieved by any suitable means including either mutating a wild type F protein, synthesising a F protein variant or modifying a nucleic acid molecule encoding a wild type F protein such that the expression product of said mutated nucleic acid molecule is a F protein variant. Preferably, said mutation is a single or multiple amino acid sequence substitution, addition and/or deletion.  
15 In this regard, in one preferred embodiment the subject mutation is deletion of all or part of the intervening sequence. In another preferred embodiment, the subject mutation is an amino acid substitution which renders the newly identified cleavage site inactive. By inactive is meant that the cleavage site cannot be cleaved by the enzymatic processes which normally function to activate an F protein *in vivo*.  
20  
In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.  
25 In a most preferred embodiment there is provided a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant comprising a mutation in the cleavage site defined by amino acids RARR (<400>564) wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

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Preferably said mutation comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the following list:

- (i) R106G
- 5 (ii) A107Q
- (iii) R108G

Still more preferably said F protein variant comprises the sequence substantially as set forth in <400>565.

10

In another preferred embodiment there is provided a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant comprising a multiple amino acid deletion from the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent of said variant.

15

It is more preferably provided that said amino acid deletion is a partial deletion of the intervening peptide sequence and more preferably a deletion of the peptide sequence

RARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNVTLS <400>569.

20

Still more preferably said variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>567.

To the extent that the present invention relates to F protein variants comprising one or  
25 more amino acid additions, substitutions and/or deletions, it should also be understood to extend to nucleic acid molecules encoding said variants.

Accordingly, another aspect of the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the list consisting of:

- 30 (i) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F

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protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits modulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.

5

- (ii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.

10

- (iii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the cleavage site defined by amino acids RARR wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.

15

- (iv) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the following list:

25

- (a) R106G
- (b) A107Q
- (c) R108G

- (v) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F

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protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a multiple amino acid deletion from the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.

5

- (vi) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a partial deletion of the intervening peptide sequence and more preferably a deletion of the peptide sequence

10

RARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNTLS <400>569.

- (vii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>567.

15

- (viii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>565.

20

- (ix) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising the nucleotide substantially as set forth in <400>568.

25

- (x) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising the nucleotide substantially as set forth in <400>566.

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In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

5 The nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention may be ligated to an expression vector capable of expression in a prokaryotic cell (eg. *E.Coli*) or a eukaryotic cell (eg. yeast cells, fungal cells, insect cells, mammalian cells or plant cells). The nucleic acid molecule may be ligated or fused or otherwise associated with a nucleic acid molecule encoding another entity such as, for example, a signal peptide. It may also comprise additional nucleotide  
10 sequence information fused, linked or otherwise associated with it either at the 3' or 5' terminal portions or at both the 3' and 5' terminal portions. The nucleic acid molecule may also be part of a vector, such as an expression vector. The latter embodiment facilitates production of recombinant forms of the variant F protein encompassed by the present invention.

15 The variant F protein molecule of the present invention may be derived from natural or recombinant sources or may be chemically synthesised. Methods for producing these molecules would be well known to those skilled in the art.

20 As hereinbefore provided, "derivatives" include fragments, parts, portions, variants and mimetics from natural, synthetic or recombinant sources including fusion proteins. Parts or fragments include, for example, active regions of F protein. Derivatives may be derived from insertion, deletion or substitution of amino acids. Amino acid insertional derivatives include amino and/or carboxylic terminal fusions as well as intrasequence insertions of  
25 single or multiple amino acids. Insertional amino acid sequence variants are those in which one or more amino acid residues are introduced into a predetermined site in the protein although random insertion is also possible with suitable screening of the resulting product. Deletional variants are characterised by the removal of one or more amino acids from the sequence. Substitutional amino acid variants are those in which at least one  
30 residue in the sequence has been removed and a different residue inserted in its place. An example of substitutional amino acid variants are conservative amino acid substitutions.

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Conservative amino acid substitutions typically include substitutions within the following groups: glycine and alanine; valine, isoleucine and leucine; aspartic acid and glutamic acid; asparagine and glutamine; serine and threonine; lysine and arginine; and phenylalanine and tyrosine. Additions to amino acid sequences include fusions with other peptides,  
5 polypeptides or proteins.

Reference to "homologues" should be understood as a reference to F protein nucleic acid molecules or proteins derived from viral strains other than the species of origin.

10 Chemical and functional equivalents of F protein nucleic acid or protein molecules should be understood as molecules exhibiting any one or more of the functional activities of these molecules and may be derived from any source such as being chemically synthesized or identified via screening processes such as natural product screening.

15 The derivatives include fragments having particular epitopes or parts of the entire protein fused to peptides, polypeptides or other proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous molecules.

Analogues contemplated herein include, but are not limited to, modification to side chains, incorporating of unnatural amino acids and/or their derivatives during peptide, polypeptide  
20 or protein synthesis and the use of crosslinkers and other methods which impose conformational constraints on the proteinaceous molecules or their analogues.

Derivatives of nucleic acid sequences may similarly be derived from single or multiple nucleotide substitutions, deletions and/or additions including fusion with other nucleic acid  
25 molecules. The derivatives of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention include oligonucleotides, PCR primers, antisense molecules, molecules suitable for use in cosuppression and fusion of nucleic acid molecules. Derivatives of nucleic acid sequences also include degenerate variants.

30 Examples of side chain modifications contemplated by the present invention include modifications of amino groups such as by reductive alkylation by reaction with an aldehyde followed by reduction with  $\text{NaBH}_4$ ; amidination with methylacetimidate; acylation with acetic anhydride; carbamoylation of amino groups with cyanate;

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trinitrobenzylation of amino groups with 2, 4, 6-trinitrobenzene sulphonic acid (TNBS); acylation of amino groups with succinic anhydride and tetrahydrophthalic anhydride; and pyridoxylation of lysine with pyridoxal-5-phosphate followed by reduction with  $\text{NaBH}_4$ .

- 5 The guanidine group of arginine residues may be modified by the formation of heterocyclic condensation products with reagents such as 2,3-butanedione, phenylglyoxal and glyoxal.

- The carboxyl group may be modified by carbodiimide activation *via* O-acylisourea  
10 formation followed by subsequent derivitisation, for example, to a corresponding amide.

- Sulphydryl groups may be modified by methods such as carboxymethylation with iodoacetic acid or iodoacetamide; performic acid oxidation to cysteic acid; formation of a mixed disulphides with other thiol compounds; reaction with maleimide, maleic anhydride  
15 or other substituted maleimide; formation of mercurial derivatives using 4-chloromercuribenzoate, 4-chloromercuriphenylsulphonic acid, phenylmercury chloride, 2-chloromercuri-4-nitrophenol and other mercurials; carbamoylation with cyanate at alkaline pH.

- 20 Tryptophan residues may be modified by, for example, oxidation with N-bromosuccinimide or alkylation of the indole ring with 2-hydroxy-5-nitrobenzyl bromide or sulphenyl halides. Tyrosine residues on the other hand, may be altered by nitration with tetranitromethane to form a 3-nitrotyrosine derivative.

- 25 Modification of the imidazole ring of a histidine residue may be accomplished by alkylation with iodoacetic acid derivatives or N-carboethoxylation with diethylpyrocarbonate.

- Examples of incorporating unnatural amino acids and derivatives during protein synthesis  
30 include, but are not limited to, use of norleucine, 4-amino butyric acid, 4-amino-3-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoic acid, 6-aminoheptanoic acid, t-butylglycine, norvaline, phenylglycine, ornithine, sarcosine, 4-amino-3-hydroxy-6-methylheptanoic acid, 2-thienyl

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alanine and/or D-isomers of amino acids. A list of unnatural amino acids contemplated herein is shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

	Non-conventional	Code	Non-conventional	Code
5	amino acid		amino acid	
	$\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid	Abu	L-N-methylalanine	Nmala
	$\alpha$ -amino- $\alpha$ -methylbutyrate	Mgab	L-N-methylarginine	Nmarg
	aminocyclopropane-	Cpro	L-N-methylasparagine	Nmasn
	carboxylate		L-N-methylaspartic acid	Nmasp
10	aminoisobutyric acid	Aib	L-N-methylcysteine	Nmcys
	aminonorbomyl-	Norb	L-N-methylglutamine	Nmgln
	carboxylate		L-N-methylglutamic acid	Nmglu
	cyclohexylalanine	Chexa	L-N-methylhistidine	Nmhis
	cyclopentylalanine	Cpen	L-N-methylisoleucine	Nmile
15	D-alanine	Dal	L-N-methylleucine	Nmleu
	D-arginine	Darg	L-N-methyllysine	Nmlys
	D-aspartic acid	Das	L-N-methylmethionine	Nmmet
	D-cysteine	Dcys	L-N-methylnorleucine	Nmle
	D-glutamine	Dgln	L-N-methylnorvaline	Nmnva
20	D-glutamic acid	Dglu	L-N-methylornithine	Nmorn
	D-histidine	Dhis	L-N-methylphenylalanine	Nmphe
	D-isoleucine	Dile	L-N-methylproline	Nmpro
	D-leucine	Dleu	L-N-methylserine	Nmser
	D-lysine	Dlys	L-N-methylthreonine	Nmthr
25	D-methionine	Dmet	L-N-methyltryptophan	Nmtrp
	D-ornithine	Dorn	L-N-methyltyrosine	Nmtyr
	D-phenylalanine	Dphe	L-N-methylvaline	Nmval
	D-proline	Dpro	L-N-methylethylglycine	Nmetg
	D-serine	Dser	L-N-methyl-t-butylglycine	Nmtbug
30	D-threonine	Dthr	L-norleucine	Nle
	D-tryptophan	Dtrp	L-norvaline	Nva
	D-tyrosine	Dtyr	$\alpha$ -methyl-aminoisobutyrate	Maib
	D-valine	Dval	$\alpha$ -methyl- -aminobutyrate	Mgab

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	D- $\alpha$ -methylalanine	Dmala	$\alpha$ -methylcyclohexylalanine	Mchexa
	D- $\alpha$ -methylarginine	Dmarg	$\alpha$ -methylcyclopentylalanine	Mcpen
	D- $\alpha$ -methylasparagine	Dmasn	$\alpha$ -methyl- $\alpha$ -naphthylalanine	Manap
	D- $\alpha$ -methylaspartate	Dmasp	$\alpha$ -methylpenicillamine	Mpen
5	D- $\alpha$ -methylcysteine	Dmcys	N-(4-aminobutyl)glycine	Nglu
	D- $\alpha$ -methylglutamine	Dmgln	N-(2-aminoethyl)glycine	Naeg
	D- $\alpha$ -methylhistidine	Dmhis	N-(3-aminopropyl)glycine	Norn
	D- $\alpha$ -methylisoleucine	Dmile	N-amino- $\alpha$ -methylbutyrate	Nmaabu
	D- $\alpha$ -methylleucine	Dmleu	$\alpha$ -naphthylalanine	Anap
10	D- $\alpha$ -methyllysine	Dmlys	N-benzylglycine	Nphe
	D- $\alpha$ -methylmethionine	Dmmet	N-(2-carbamylethyl)glycine	Ngln
	D- $\alpha$ -methylornithine	Dmorn	N-(carbamylmethyl)glycine	Nasn
	D- $\alpha$ -methylphenylalanine	Dmphe	N-(2-carboxyethyl)glycine	Nglu
	D- $\alpha$ -methylproline	Dmpro	N-(carboxymethyl)glycine	Nasp
15	D- $\alpha$ -methylserine	Dmser	N-cyclobutylglycine	Ncbut
	D- $\alpha$ -methylthreonine	Dmthr	N-cycloheptylglycine	Nchep
	D- $\alpha$ -methyltryptophan	Dmtrp	N-cyclohexylglycine	Nchex
	D- $\alpha$ -methyltyrosine	Dmty	N-cyclodecylglycine	Ncdec
	D- $\alpha$ -methylvaline	Dmval	N-cylcododecylglycine	Ncdod
20	D-N-methylalanine	Dnmala	N-cyclooctylglycine	Ncoct
	D-N-methylarginine	Dnmarg	N-cyclopropylglycine	Ncpro
	D-N-methylasparagine	Dnmasn	N-cycloundecylglycine	Ncund
	D-N-methylaspartate	Dnmasp	N-(2,2-diphenylethyl)glycine	Nbhm
	D-N-methylcysteine	Dnmcys	N-(3,3-diphenylpropyl)glycine	Nbhe
25	D-N-methylglutamine	Dnmgln	N-(3-guanidinopropyl)glycine	Narg
	D-N-methylglutamate	Dnmglu	N-(1-hydroxyethyl)glycine	Nthr
	D-N-methylhistidine	Dnmhis	N-(hydroxyethyl)glycine	Nser
	D-N-methylisoleucine	Dnmile	N-(imidazolylethyl)glycine	Nhis
	D-N-methylleucine	Dnmleu	N-(3-indolylethyl)glycine	Nhtrp
30	D-N-methyllysine	Dnmlys	N-methyl- $\gamma$ -aminobutyrate	Nmgabu
	N-methylcyclohexylalanine	Nmchexa	D-N-methylmethionine	Dnmmet
	D-N-methylornithine	Dnmorn	N-methylcyclopentylalanine	Nmcpen
	N-methylglycine	Nala	D-N-methylphenylalanine	Dnmphe

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	N-methylaminoisobutyrate	Nmaib	D-N-methylproline	Dnmpro
	N-(1-methylpropyl)glycine	Nile	D-N-methylserine	Dnmser
	N-(2-methylpropyl)glycine	Nleu	D-N-methylthreonine	Dnmthr
	D-N-methyltryptophan	Dnmtrp	N-(1-methylethyl)glycine	Nval
5	D-N-methyltyrosine	Dnmtyr	N-methyl- $\alpha$ -naphthylalanine	Nmanap
	D-N-methylvaline	Dnmval	N-methylpenicillamine	Nmpen
	$\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid	Gabu	N-( <i>p</i> -hydroxyphenyl)glycine	Nhtyr
	L- <i>t</i> -butylglycine	Tbug	N-(thiomethyl)glycine	Ncys
	L-ethylglycine	Etg	penicillamine	Pen
10	L-homophenylalanine	Hphe	L- $\alpha$ -methylalanine	Mala
	L- $\alpha$ -methylarginine	Marg	L- $\alpha$ -methylasparagine	Masn
	L- $\alpha$ -methylaspartate	Masp	L- $\alpha$ -methyl- <i>t</i> -butylglycine	Mtbug
	L- $\alpha$ -methylcysteine	Mcys	L-methylethylglycine	Metg
	L- $\alpha$ -methylglutamine	Mgln	L- $\alpha$ -methylglutamate	Mglu
15	L- $\alpha$ -methylhistidine	Mhis	L- $\alpha$ -methylhomophenylalanine	Mhphe
	L- $\alpha$ -methylisoleucine	Mile	N-(2-methylthioethyl)glycine	Nmet
	L- $\alpha$ -methylleucine	Mleu	L- $\alpha$ -methyllysine	Mlys
	L- $\alpha$ -methylmethionine	Mmet	L- $\alpha$ -methylnorleucine	Mnle
	L- $\alpha$ -methylnorvaline	Mnva	L- $\alpha$ -methylornithine	Morn
20	L- $\alpha$ -methylphenylalanine	Mphe	L- $\alpha$ -methylproline	Mpro
	L- $\alpha$ -methylserine	Mser	L- $\alpha$ -methylthreonine	Mthr
	L- $\alpha$ -methyltryptophan	Mtrp	L- $\alpha$ -methyltyrosine	Mtyr
	L- $\alpha$ -methylvaline	Mval	L-N-methylhomophenylalanine	Nmhphe
	N-(N-(2,2-diphenylethyl)	Nnbhm	N-(N-(3,3-diphenylpropyl)	Nnbhe
25	carbamylmethyl)glycine		carbamylmethyl)glycine	
	1-carboxy-1-(2,2-diphenyl-Nmbc			
	ethylamino)cyclopropane			

- 
- 30 Crosslinkers can be used, for example, to stabilise 3D conformations, using homo-bifunctional crosslinkers such as the bifunctional imido esters having (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> spacer groups with n=1 to n=6, glutaraldehyde, N-hydroxysuccinimide esters and hetero-bifunctional

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reagents which usually contain an amino-reactive moiety such as N-hydroxysuccinimide and another group specific-reactive moiety.

In addition to screening for agents which modulate F protein functional activity, the development of a method of producing a viral F protein or derivative thereof in a eukaryotic cell and identification of the novel F protein cleavage site has now facilitated the development of *in vivo* methodology directed to administering to a subject a vaccine comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein or derivative thereof. Reference to "derivative" should be understood to encompass variants thereof, such as the variants hereinbefore defined. Without limiting the present invention to any one theory or mode of action, the operation of such a vaccine is based on the generation of an immune response, in particular antibody synthesis, directed to the subject F protein or derivative thereof. The antibodies generated therein bind to virally produced F proteins thereby inhibiting their fusion related functional activity and consequently reducing and/or inhibiting further viral propagation. Such a vaccine is useful in either the prophylactic and/or therapeutic sense.

Accordingly, another aspect of the present invention provides a recombinant viral construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule comprises codons optimised for expression in a eukaryotic cell, wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein.

Still another aspect of the present invention provides a recombinant viral construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative thereof wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein variant.



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In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

- 5 Reference to "inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating" an immune response to an F protein should be understood to mean stimulating or facilitating the stimulation of a specific immune response. The specific immune response is preferably a humoral response which is directed to any one or more regions of the F protein. In this regard, it should be understood that the subject immune response will down-regulate and/or inhibit  
10 at least one functional activity of the subject F protein.

- Yet another aspect of the present invention relates to a vaccine comprising a recombinant viral construct which construct comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic  
15 acid molecule is optimised for expression in a eukaryotic cell wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein.

- Still another aspect of the present invention relates to a vaccine comprising a recombinant  
20 viral construct which construct comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant or derivative thereof, wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein variant.

- 25 In accordance with these aspects of the present invention, the nucleotide sequence of the subject nucleic acid molecule is preferably the nucleotide sequence defined in <400>5, <400>6, <400>566 or <400>568.

- A further aspect of the present invention relates to use of the agents hereinbefore defined to  
30 modulate F protein functional activity and, in particular, the use of these agents in the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of conditions characterised by infection with a

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negative sense single stranded RNA virus, and more particularly respiratory syncytial virus. Conditions envisaged herein include Parainfluenza induced croup and bronchiolitis. It should be understood that reference to "agent" hereinafter includes reference to agents identified or generated by the screening assays described above, including the modulatory  
5 agents (for example, antibodies) which are generated *in vivo* via use of a DNA vaccine. This aspect of the present invention is also directed to use of the F protein or derivatives thereof or encoding nucleic acid molecules, including the F protein variants, as hereinbefore described in the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of conditions characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

10

Accordingly, another aspect of the present invention provides the method of modulating at least one functional activity associated with a viral F protein in a subject, said method comprising introducing into said subject and effective amount of an F protein modulatory agent for a time and under condition sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

15

Preferably, said functional activity is F protein mediated host cell-virion fusion and/or virion budding and said modulation is down-regulation.

In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more  
20 preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

The term "subject" includes humans primates, livestock animals( eg, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, donkeys), laboratory test animals (eg, mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs), companion  
25 animals (eg, dogs, cats), captive wild animals (eg, kangaroos, deer, foxes), birds (eg, chickens, ducks, bantams, pheasants). Preferably the subject is a human or laboratory test animal. Even more preferably the subject is a human.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of modulating at least one  
30 functional activity associated with a viral F protein, said method comprising contacting

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said viral F protein with an effective amount of an F protein modulatory agent for a time and under conditions sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

Preferably said viral F protein is a Pneumovirus F protein and even more preferably a  
5 respiratory syncytial virus F protein. Still more preferably said modulation is down-regulation of F protein functional activity.

This aspect of the present invention should be understood to extend to the modulation of F protein associated functional activities in *in vitro* culture systems. This may be of benefit,  
10 for example, when applied to *in vitro* procedures designed to virally infect a prospective host cell. This may be of particular use, for example, where it is desired to create a cell line or to otherwise create a virally transformed cell. In this regard, the subject modulation would preferably be up-regulation of F protein functional activity.

15 In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an agent, which agent is capable of down-regulating at least one functional activity of the F protein expressed by said virus, for a time and under conditions sufficient  
20 for said agent to interact with said F protein.

In still yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective  
25 amount of a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof and/or a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent a mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule for a time and under conditions sufficient for said composition to down-regulate said viral F protein functional activity.

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In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

- 5 Reference to "administering" an agent should be understood to extend to the administration of a DNA vaccine for the purpose of *in vivo* generation of anti – F protein antibodies.

Reference to a condition "characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus" should be understood as a reference to a condition, one or more symptoms of  
10 which are directly or indirectly induced due to infection of the subject with the subject virus. Preferably, said virus is a Pneumovirus and even more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

The molecule which may be administered to a subject in accordance with the present  
15 invention may also be linked to a targeting means such as a monoclonal antibody, which provides specific delivery of the molecule to the target cells.

In a preferred embodiment the subject of the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment is a mammal and still more preferably a human.  
20

Administration of the subject modulatory agent or the subject F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule (hereinafter said  
25 modulatory agents, proteins and/or nucleic acid molecules are collectively referred to as the "active ingredients"), in the form of a pharmaceutical composition, may be performed by any convenient means. The active ingredients of the pharmaceutical composition are contemplated to exhibit therapeutic activity when administered in an amount which depends on the particular case. The variation depends, for example, on the human or  
30 animal and the active ingredient chosen. A broad range of doses may be applicable. Considering a patient, for example, from about 0.1 mg to about 1 mg of active ingredient

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may be administered per kilogram of body weight per day. Dosage regimes may be adjusted to provide the optimum therapeutic response. For example, several divided doses may be administered daily, weekly, monthly or other suitable time intervals or the dose may be proportionally reduced as indicated by the exigencies of the situation. The active  
5 ingredient may be administered in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable nontoxic salts, such as acid addition salts or metal complexes, e.g. with zinc, iron or the like (which are considered as salts for purposes of this application). Illustrative of such acid addition salts are hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulphate, phosphate, maleate, acetate, citrate, benzoate, succinate, malate, ascorbate, tartrate and the like. If the active ingredient is to be  
10 administered in tablet form, the tablet may contain a binder such as tragacanth, corn starch or gelatin; a disintegrating agent, such as alginic acid; and a lubricant, such as magnesium stearate.

Routes of administration include, but are not limited to, respiratorally, intratracheally,  
15 nasopharyngeally, intravenously, intraperitoneally, subcutaneously, intracranially, intradermally, intramuscularly, intraocularly, intrathecally, intracerebrally, intranasally, infusion, orally, rectally, *via* IV drip patch and implant. Preferably, the route of administration is a route which permits directed delivery of the modulatory agent. For example, aerosol administration (such as by nebulisation) into the airways permits directed  
20 delivery to the airways region, in contrast to systemic delivery which results in delivery to the whole body.

Where the disorder which is the subject of treatment or prophylaxis is a respiratory distress syndrome, delivery of the active ingredient to the airway, for example as an aerosol *via*  
25 nebulisation, is an ideal approach since this maximises delivery to the airway where the infection has occurred and minimises systemic delivery which may be associated with side effects.

The term "aerosol" is used in its most general sense to include any formulation capable of  
30 administration *via* nasal, pharyngeal, tracheal, bronchial or oral passages. Aerosols generally comprise particles of liquid or solid suspended in a gas or vapour. Conveniently,

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the aerosol is a colloidal system such as a mist in which the dispersion medium is a gas. The method of administering the aerosol formulation is not critical and may be achieved using a nasal spray hand pump, electric pump, pressurised dispenser, nasal drip or other convenient means. Alternatively, the formulation may be administered in a dry powder  
5 delivery system. It should be understood that the method of the present invention extends to direct application of said formulations to intra nasal surfaces. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the aerosol is delivered at a rate of from about 1 to about 20 litres/min. and preferably from about 2 to about 15 litres/min. at a droplet size of from about 0.1 to about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and more preferably from about 0.1 to about 6  $\mu\text{m}$ . Conveniently, a stock solution  
10 of material is prepared at a concentration of from about 0.5 to about 20 mg/ml or more preferably from about 1.0 to about 10 mg/ml of carrier solution.

The formulation is administered in a therapeutically effective amount. A therapeutically effective amount means that amount necessary at least partly to attain the desired effect, or  
15 to delay the onset of, inhibit the progression of, or halt altogether, the onset or progression of the particular condition being treated. Such amounts will depend, of course, on the particular conditions being treated, the severity of the condition and individual patient parameters including age, physical conditions, size, weight and concurrent treatment. These factors are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and can be addressed with  
20 no more than routine experimentation. It is preferred generally that a maximum dose be used, that is, the highest safe dose according to sound medical judgement. It will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, however, that a lower dose or tolerable dose may be administered for medical reasons, psychological reasons or for virtually any other reasons.

25 Generally, daily doses of formulation will be from about 0.01  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  per day to 1000 mg/kg per day. Small doses (0.01-1 mg) may be administered initially, followed by increasing doses up to about 1000 mg/kg per day. In the event that the response in a subject is insufficient at such doses, even higher doses (or effective higher doses by a different, more  
30 localised delivery route) may be employed to the extent patient tolerance permits. A single dose may be administered or multiple doses may be required on an hourly, daily, weekly or

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monthly basis. Effective amounts of formulation vary depending on the individual but may range from about 0.1 µg to about 20 mg, alternatively from about 1 µg to about 10 mg and more preferably from about 1 µg to 5 mg per dose.

5 In another aspect the present invention relates to the use of an agent capable of modulating at least one functional activity of a viral F protein, which agent is identified and/or generated in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

10

In still another aspect the present invention relates to the use of a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of  
15 a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably  
20 respiratory syncytial virus.

In another aspect the present invention relates to the use of an agent, which agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined, in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of at least one viral F protein associated functional activity.

25

In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

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Yet another aspect relates to agents for use in modulating the functional activity of a viral F protein wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined.

- 5 Still yet another aspect relates to agents for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the methods hereinbefore defined.

Yet still another aspect relates to a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F  
10 protein or F protein variant as hereinbefore defined or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

15

In a preferred embodiment the viral F protein is a Paramyxoviridae F protein and still more preferably the subject viral F protein is of the Genus Pneumovirus and still more preferably respiratory syncytial virus.

- 20 Reference herein to "treatment" and "prophylaxis" is to be considered in its broadest context. The term "treatment" does not necessarily imply that a mammal is treated until total recovery. Similarly, "prophylaxis" does not necessarily mean that the subject will not eventually contract a disease condition. Accordingly, treatment and prophylaxis include amelioration of the symptoms of a particular condition or preventing or otherwise reducing  
25 the risk of developing a particular condition. The term "prophylaxis" may be considered as reducing the severity of onset of a particular condition. "Treatment" may also reduce the severity of an existing condition or the frequency of acute attacks.

In accordance with these methods, the active ingredients defined in accordance with the  
30 present invention may be coadministered with one or more other compounds or molecules. By "coadministered" is meant simultaneous administration in the same formulation or in



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two different formulations via the same or different routes or sequential administration by the same or different routes. By "sequential" administration is meant a time difference of from seconds, minutes, hours or days between the administration of the two types of molecules. These molecules may be administered in any order.

- 5 In yet another aspect the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an active ingredient, as hereinbefore defined, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
- 10 The pharmaceutical forms suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersion or may be in the form of a cream or other form suitable for topical application. It must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of
- 15 microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), suitable mixtures thereof, and vegetable oils. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion
- 20 and by the use of surfactants. The preventions of the action of microorganisms can be brought about by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, thimerosal and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars or sodium chloride. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by the use in the
- 25 compositions of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

Sterile injectable solutions are prepared by incorporating the active compounds in the required amount in the appropriate solvent with various of the other ingredients

30 enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilisation. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the various sterilised active ingredient into a sterile vehicle which contains the basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those

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enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, the preferred methods of preparation are vacuum drying and the freeze-drying technique which yield a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired ingredient from previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

- 5 When the active ingredients are suitably protected they may be orally administered, for example, with an inert diluent or with an assimilable edible carrier, or it may be enclosed in hard or soft shell gelatin capsule, or it may be compressed into tablets, or it may be incorporated directly with the food of the diet. For oral therapeutic administration, the
- 10 active compound may be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of ingestible tablets, buccal tablets, troches, capsules, elixirs, suspensions, syrups, wafers, and the like. Such compositions and preparations should contain at least 1% by weight of active compound. The percentage of the compositions and preparations may, of course, be varied and may conveniently be between about 5 to about 80% of the weight of the unit. The
- 15 amount of active compound in such therapeutically useful compositions is such that a suitable dosage will be obtained. Preferred compositions or preparations according to the present invention are prepared so that an oral dosage unit form contains between about 0.1  $\mu$ g and 2000 mg of active compound.
- 20 The tablets, troches, pills, capsules and the like may also contain the components as listed hereafter: a binder such as gum, acacia, corn starch or gelatin; excipients such as dicalcium phosphate; a disintegrating agent such as corn starch, potato starch, alginic acid and the like; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate; and a sweetening agent such as sucrose, lactose or saccharin may be added or a flavouring agent such as peppermint, oil of
- 25 wintergreen, or cherry flavouring. When the dosage unit form is a capsule, it may contain, in addition to materials of the above type, a liquid carrier. Various other materials may be present as coatings or to otherwise modify the physical form of the dosage unit. For instance, tablets, pills, or capsules may be coated with shellac, sugar or both. A syrup or elixir may contain the active compound, sucrose as a sweetening agent, methyl and
- 30 propylparabens as preservatives, a dye and flavouring such as cherry or orange flavour. Of course, any material used in preparing any dosage unit form should be pharmaceutically

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pure and substantially non-toxic in the amounts employed. In addition, the active compound(s) may be incorporated into sustained-release preparations and formulations.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for aerosol administration have been hereinbefore  
5 described.

The pharmaceutical composition may also comprise genetic molecules such as a vector capable of transfecting target cells where the vector carries a nucleic acid molecule encoding an active ingredient. The vector may, for example, be a viral vector.

10

The present invention is further described by the following non-limiting examples.

TABLE 1

	Sequence ID Number	Description
	<400>1	Natural F protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>2	Natural F <sub>sol</sub> portion nucleic acid sequence
5	<400>3	Restriction site modified F protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>4	Restriction site modified F <sub>sol</sub> portion nucleic acid sequence
	<400>5	Splice site and codon optimised F protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>6	Splice site and codon optimised F <sub>sol</sub> portion nucleic acid sequence
10	<400>7	F protein amino acid sequence
	<400>8	F <sub>sol</sub> portion amino acid sequence
	<400>9 - <400>553	F protein amino acid decapeptides
	<400>554	P protein amino acid sequence
15	<400>555	Natural P protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>556	Optimised P protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>557	N protein amino acid sequence
	<400>558	Natural N protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>559	Optimised N protein nucleic acid sequence
20	<400>560	SH protein amino acid sequence
	<400>561	Natural SH protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>562	Optimised SH protein nucleic acid sequence
	<400>563	F protein cleavage site 1 aa sequence
	<400>564	F protein cleavage site 2 aa sequence
25	<400>565	F protein variant
	<400>566	F protein variant nucleic acid sequence
	<400>567	F protein variant
	<400>568	F protein variant nucleic acid sequence
	<400>569	F protein intervening aa sequence
30	<400>570	Poly (a) adenylation site

### EXAMPLE 1

#### DESIGN OF SYNTHETIC GENE FOR RSV F EXPRESSION

Initial attempts to express the RSV F gene sequence in a soluble form (truncated at the  
5 transmembrane domain) proved unsuccessful in achieving high levels of expression. The  
sequence used in the expression vectors was called F<sub>sol</sub>. (this differed from the viral  
sequence in 24/1575 nucleotides where restriction sites had been inserted to allow for easy  
mutagenesis – see Fig. 2b). The F viral sequence (F<sub>sol</sub>.viral Fig 2b) contained suboptimal  
codon usage for expression in mammalian cells. In addition, a possible eight 3' splice sites  
10 were identified, including preceding lariat sequences at four positions. Poly (A)  
adenylation sites (AATAAA <400>570) were also identified at 4 positions. In addition,  
the F natural sequence like the viral sequence is approximately 65% AT rich. Most  
mammalian expressed genes are less than 50% AT rich. The DNA sequence encoding the  
transmembrane form of RSV F is also shown in Fig 2a.

15

In an attempt to overcome poor expression levels in mammalian cells, a new F sequence  
was designed that:

- (a) retained the same encoded amino acid sequence
- 20 (b) used wherever possible optimum codon usage
- (c) removed all potential splice sites and poly A sites
- (d) removed as many CG doublets as these may be methylation sites
- (e) designed unique restriction sites to allow cassette mutagenesis
- (f) sequence was checked by secondary structure and any large hairpin loops were  
25 destabilised by changing the sequence

Sequences encoding a transmembrane version of F and the F<sub>sol</sub> protein are shown in Fig.3a  
and 3b respectively.

30 Both of these optimised sequences F<sub>opt</sub> and F<sub>sol</sub>.opt are compared to the viral sequence in  
Figs 2a and 2b.

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The synthetic DNA sequence Fopt (also referred to as F<sub>sol.opt</sub>) was assembled and cloned as outlined in Fig. 4a and 4b. In brief, single stranded synthetic DNA fragments of average length 60 bases were annealed and ligated together to produce three fragments

- 5 (1) a 631bp Pst I-Mfe I fragment
- (2) a 606bp Mfe I-Xho I fragment
- (3) a 379bp Xho I-Bam HI fragment.

These gel purified fragments were cloned in pLitmus 38 or a derivative of pLITMUS  
10 (pLITMUS 273/279). Clones containing the correct sequence were used as a DNA source to assemble the full length gene as outlined in Fig. 4b. In brief the respective fragment Pst-Mfe I, Xho I-Bam HI and Mfe-Xho I were sequentially cloned into the CMV expression vector pCICO or its derivatives. [pCICO is a derivative of pJW4304 which contains a full length CMV promoter and the CMV authentic intron sequence preceding the Pst I site.  
15 The 3' terminator used is derived from SV40 early region and this vector also contains the SV40 origin of replication. The plasmid is from the pUC series and contains an ampicillin resistance gene. (pJW4304 was obtained from J. Mullins Dept. of Microbiology, University of Washington, Chapman *et al.*, NAR, 19:3979-3980, 1991)]. This produced the final clone pCICO.Fopt.

20

pCICO.Fopt was further modified by cloning in a 270bp EcoRI-Xba I fragment (see Fig. 4b) which encodes the transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains of the RSV F protein. Again, the DNA sequence was optimised as for the soluble version See Fig. 2b for comparison of F.opt (Fopt FL sequence) and F (viral with a few additional restriction site  
25 changes) and F.viral (viral sequence). The resulting CMV expression plasmid is called pCICO.F.FL.opt. Note FL stands for the term full length and refers to a form of F that includes the transmembrane region and the cytoplasmic tail.

30

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**EXAMPLE 2*****IN VITRO* EXPRESSION OF RSV F EXPRESSION**

Vectors pCICO containing the F<sub>sol</sub>-opt sequence (pCICO.Fopt) and the F<sub>sol</sub> sequence  
5 (pCICO.FS3) were tested for expression by CaPO<sub>4</sub> precipitation in 293 cells. Cells in a  
60ml dish were transfected with 5µg of plasmid and 0.5µg of pVARNA. Cells were  
radioactively labelled with <sup>35</sup>S methionine and <sup>35</sup>S cysteine 24 hours post transfection and  
the supernatants collected 5 hours after labelling. Supernatants were immunoprecipitated  
with a RSV F specific monoclonal antibody and the precipitates were analysed by  
10 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Gels were subjected to fluorography, dried and  
exposed to X-ray film. Fig. 5 shows an autoradiograph comparing the amount of F in  
pCICO.FS3, pCICO.Fopt and control (mock-transfected) cells. Expression is much  
improved in the pCICO.Fopt transfected cells by at least 20 fold.

**EXAMPLE 3****RSV FUSION ASSAY**

293 cells were also transfected with the plasmid pCICO.F.FL.opt which contains the  
transmembrane spanning version of F. Cells transfected with this plasmid were observed  
20 24-48 hours post transfection to contain many large syncytia and dying cells. Control cells  
were confluent. The F transfected cells look indistinguishable from RSV infected cells.  
Thus high level expression of F is all that is necessary for cell fusion to occur. This is  
markedly different to what is reported in the literature (Collins et al, Fields, and references  
within). This assay forms a useful screen for detecting F specific inhibitors of RSV fusion.  
25 Agents found by this assay are also useful for inhibiting RSV replication.

**EXAMPLE 4****RSV SECOND CLEAVAGE SITE MUTANTS**

30 The RSV F protein sequence at amino acid singular numbers 106-109, contains the  
sequence RARR. As shown in Figure 1c, this potential cleavage site is contained within

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the F2 sub-unit of the F protein. When the F protein is expressed in mammalian cells, proteolytic cleavage occurs at two sites being site 1 (KKRKRR amino acids 131-136) which was previously identified and the previously unknown site 2 (RARR amino acids 106-109).

5

The site RARR was mutated to GQGR in the expression plasmid pCICO.FL.Fopt to give rise to the plasmid pCICO.F.FL.S2-2. Transfection of this plasmid into 293 cells revealed cleavage at site 1 but not at site 2 as expected. This was detected by a larger size F2 sub-unit (~30K versus 18K) in the S2-2 mutant than in the wild type. The size of the protein  
10 between site 2 and site 1 would be expected to be 10-12K (25 amino acids plus two NH<sub>2</sub> – linked glycosylation sites). It was surprisingly noted that no evidence of fusion was seen in the 293 cells transfected with the S2-2 mutant plasmid of wild type. This evidence would suggest that cleavage at both site 1 and site 2 is necessary for cleavage. Note that in additional experiments, mutation of site 1 (KKRKRR) to GGKQGR, produced a mutant  
15 showing no fusion activity.

In the next experiments the issue of whether the sequence between sites 1 and 2 were necessary for fusion was addressed. A mutant was constructed by standard techniques (cassette mutagenesis) in which amino acids 106-130 were deleted. This mutant is  
20 designated delta 106-130. Transfection of 293 cells with an expression plasmid containing this mutant (pCICO.FLFΔ106-130) showed that fusion did occur. This fusion was phenotypically different from wild type in that only small syncytia were visible, suggesting that the ability of the RSV F protein to initiate or perform fusion had been attenuated.

25



## EXAMPLE 5

### EXPRESSION OF NATURAL F -V- F OPTIMISED SEQUENCE

#### 5 *Cloning of RSVA2 F cDNA*

RNA prepared from RSVA2 infected Hep-2 cells was used as a source of RSV A2 F mRNA. RT-PCR ( reverse transcriptase PCR ) using 5'- and 3'- end primers was used to prepare cDNA encoding RSV A2 F according to standard methods. PCR products were  
10 subcloned into standard vectors. Sequencing of many clones revealed a consensus sequence for the F gene of RSV A2. This sequence is shown in Figure 6 as F.nat and compared to F .viral. The F.nat sequence differs at nt 174 and 222. Both of these T to C changes do not result in amino acid changes. A pCICO vector containing the F.nat sequence ( called pCICO.F.nat) was assembled from a synthetic Pst1 to Acc1 157 bp  
15 fragment ligated to a 445 bp Acc1 to Mfe 1 fragment and a 1125 bp Mfe 1 to Xba 1 fragment derived from independent RT-PCR RSVA2 F cDNA clones. The synthetic fragment was used to make the addition of extra 5'-untranslated sequences not present in the PCR products. The 5'-untranslated sequence is 5'- CTGCAGTCACCGTCCTTGA-CACC -3' (<400>571) and includes a Pst 1 site. This sequence is added just 5' to the  
20 initiator ATG in the following constructions pCICO.F.nat and the previously described pCICO.F.FL.opt. The Acc1 to Mfe 1 and Mfe 1 to Xba1 fragments were derived from independent RT-PCR RSVA2 F cDNA clones. The sequence F.nat encodes the same 574 amino acid sequence as shown in Fig 1.

#### 25 *Expression of pCICO.F.FL.opt versus pCICO.F.nat*

293 cells were transfected with plasmids pCICO.F.FL.opt , pCICO.F.nat and a control as described in example 2. Cells were harvested at 24, 48 and 72 hours post transfection in cell lysis buffer. The amount of F protein in these samples was measured by Western blot  
30 analysis using standard techniques. The primary antibody called 18B2, is a mouse monoclonal antibody that recognizes the F1 protein. A proteolytic breakdown product of

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F1 called F1' is also recognized by this antibody. The western blots were developed using a secondary anti - mouse horseradish peroxidase antibody and a light emitting substrate according to standard procedures.

- 5 The results of these experiments are shown in fig 7. Lanes labelled WT refer to samples from cells transfected with pCICO.F.FL.opt : A2 lanes refer to samples from cells transfected with pCICO.F.nat and Ctrl lanes are from cells transfected with control plasmids lacking either F sequence. F protein ( F1 and F1' ) is only observed in WT lanes indicating that the F expression level in cells transfected with pCICO.F.FL.opt is far  
10 superior to those transfected with pCICO.F.nat.

- In parallel to the above experiments 293 cells were transfected with the same three plasmids and observed microscopically for signs of cell to cell fusion (syncytia formation). In three parallel experiments only cells transfected with pCICO.F.FL.opt show any cell to  
15 cell fusion. At 72 hours post transfection between 75 to 100 % of cells were involved in syncytia in pCICO.FL.opt transfected cells. No fusion is observed in either the pCICO.F.nat or Ctrl transfected cells ( see Fig 8 ).

- Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to  
20 variations and modifications other than those specifically described. It is to be understood that the invention includes all such variations and modifications. The invention also includes all of the steps, features, compositions and compounds referred to or indicated in this specification, individually or collectively, and any and all combinations of any two or more of said steps or features.

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## CLAIMS:

1. A method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.
4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.
5. The method according to any one of claims 1-4 wherein said protein directly or indirectly facilitates fusion of any one or more viral components with any one or more host cells components.
6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a F protein or derivative thereof.
7. The method according to claim 6 wherein said derivative is the F<sub>sol</sub> fragment.
8. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is an N protein or derivative thereof.
9. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a P protein or derivative thereof.

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10. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a SH protein or derivative thereof.
11. The method according to any one of claims 1-10 wherein said eukaryotic host cell is a mammalian cell.
12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mammalian cell is a 293 cell.
13. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mammalian cell is a Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell.
14. The method according to any one of claims 11-13 wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation and/or nucleotide splice site deletion.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said codon optimisation comprises modification of at least one A and/or T comprising codon to express G and C, respectively and said splice site deletion comprises deletion of at least one RNA splice site.
16. The method according to claim 14 or 15 wherein said optimised protein encoding nucleic acid molecule further comprises one or more endonuclease restriction sites.
17. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>3 or derivative thereof.
18. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>5 or derivative thereof.

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19. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F<sub>SOL</sub> protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>4 or derivative thereof.

20. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F<sub>SOL</sub> protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>6 or derivative thereof.

21. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised P protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>556 or derivative thereof.

22. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised N protein encoding nucleic acid sequence correspond to the sequence defined by <400>559 or derivative thereof.

23. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said SH protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>562 or derivative thereof.

24. An optimised nucleic acid molecule or derivative thereof as described in any one of claims 1-23.

25. A protein molecule encoded by the optimised nucleic acid molecule of claim 24 or derivative, equivalent, analogue or mimetic thereof.

26. A method of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully

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functional form of said protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

27. The method according to claim 26 wherein said method comprises expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

28. The method according to claim 27 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.

29. The method according to claim 28 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.

30. The method according to any one of claims 26-29 wherein said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by the peptide sequence RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

31. The method according to any one of claims 26-29 wherein said F protein, in its non-fully functional form, comprises the structure:

$$X_1 X_2 X_3$$

wherein:

$X_1$  comprises the non-intervening peptide sequence region of the F<sub>2</sub> portion;

$X_2$  comprises the intervening peptide sequence region of the F<sub>2</sub> portion; and

$X_3$  comprises the F<sub>1</sub> portion

32. The method according to claim 31 wherein said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by the peptide sequence RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).



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33. The method according to any one of claims 26-32 wherein said regulation is down-regulation.

34. A method for detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a eukaryotic cell expressing an optimised nucleic acid molecule in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1-23 with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or functional activity.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said viral F protein is a non-fully functional form of said protein and wherein said agent modulates cleavage of the intervening peptide sequence.

36. A method for detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a host cell, which host cell expresses a nucleic acid molecule encoding the non-fully functional form of said viral F protein derivative thereof, with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or altered functional activity wherein said agent modulates the site 2 cleavage event.

37. A method for analysing, designing and/or modifying an agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein or derivative thereof and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said protein, which protein is produced in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1-23, said method comprising contacting said F protein or derivative thereof with a putative agent and assessing the degree of interactive complementarity of said agent with said protein.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.

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39. The method according to claim 38 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.
40. The method according to claim 39 wherein said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.
41. An agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said viral protein.
42. The agent according to claim 41 wherein said agent is an antagonist which interacts with a sequence selected from:

CFASGQNITE <400>9	FASGQNITEE <400>10
ASGQNITEEF <400>11	SGQNITEEFY <400>12
GQNITEEFYQ <400>13	QNITEEFYQS <400>14
NITEEFYQST <400>15	ITEEFYQSTC <400>16
TEEFYQSTCS <400>17	EEFYQSTCSA <400>18
EFYQSTCSAV <400>19	FYQSTCSAVS <400>20
YQSTCSAVSK <400>21	QSTCSAVSKG <400>22
STCSAVSKGY <400>23	TCSAVSKGYL <400>24
CSAVSKGYLS <400>25	SAVSKGYLSA <400>26
AVSKGYLSAL <400>27	VSKGYLSALR <400>28
SKGYLSALRT <400>29	KGYLSALRTG <400>30
GYLSALRTGW <400>31	YLSALRTGWY <400>32
LSALRTGWYT <400>33	SALRTGWYTS <400>34
ALRTGWYTSV <400>35	LRTGWYTSVI <400>36
RTGWYTSVIT <400>37	TGWYTSVITI <400>38
GWYTSVITIE <400>39	WYTSVITIEL <400>40
YTSVITIELS <400>41	TSVITIELSN <400>42
SVITIELSNI <400>43	VITIELSNIK <400>44
ITIELSNIKK <400>45	TIELSNIKKN <400>46
IELSNIKKNK <400>47	ELSNIKKNKC <400>48
LSNIKKNKC <400>49	SNIKKNKCNG <400>50
NIKKNKCNGT <400>51	IKKNKCNGTD <400>52
KKNKCNGTDA <400>53	KNKCNGTDAK <400>54
NKCNGTDAKV <400>55	KCNGTDAKVK <400>56
CNGTDAKVKL <400>57	NGTDAKVCLI <400>58
GTDAKVCLIQ <400>59	TDACVCLIQ <400>60
DAKVCLIQKE <400>61	AKVCLIQKEL <400>62
KVCLIQKELD <400>63	VKLIQKELDK <400>64
KLIQKELDKY <400>65	LIQKELDKYK <400>66
IKQELDKYKN <400>67	KQELDKYKNA <400>68
QELDKYKNAV <400>69	ELDKYKNAV <400>70
LDKYKNAVTE <400>71	DKYKNAVTEL <400>72
KYKNAVTELO <400>73	YKNAVTELOL <400>74
KNAVTELOLL <400>75	NAVTELOLLM <400>76
AVTELOLLMQ <400>77	VTELOLLMQS <400>78

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TELQLLMQST <400>79  
LQLLMQSTQA <400>81  
LLMQSTQATN <400>83  
MQSTQATNNR <400>85  
STQATNNRAR <400>87  
QATNNRARRE <400>89  
TNNRARRELP <400>91  
NNRARRELPRF <400>93  
ARRELPRFMN <400>95  
RELPRFMNYT <400>97  
LPRFMNYTLN <400>99  
RFMNYTLNNA <400>101  
MNYTLNNAKK <400>103  
YTLNNAKKTN <400>105  
LNNAKKTNTV <400>107  
NAKKTNTVTL <400>109  
KKTNTVTLSSK <400>111  
TNVTLSSKKR <400>113  
VTLSSKKRRR <400>115  
LSKKRRRRFL <400>117  
KKRRRRFLGF <400>119  
RKRRFLGFL <400>121  
RRFLGFLGVL <400>123  
FLGFLGVGSA <400>125  
GFLGVGSAIA <400>127  
LLGVGSAIAS <400>129  
GVGSAIASGV <400>131  
GSAIASGVAV <400>133  
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ASGVAVSKVL <400>137  
GVAVSKVLHL <400>139  
AVSKVLHLEG <400>141  
SKVLHLEGEV <400>143  
VLHLEGEVNI <400>145  
HLEGEVNKIK <400>147  
EGEVNKIISA <400>149  
EVNKIISALL <400>151  
NKIISALLST <400>153  
IKSALLSTNK <400>155  
SALLSTNKAV <400>157  
LLSTNKAVVS <400>159  
STNKAVVSLS <400>161  
NKAVVSLSNG <400>163  
AVVSLSNGVS <400>165  
VVSLSNGVSVL <400>167  
LSNGVSVLTS <400>169  
NGVSVLTSKV <400>171  
VSVLTSKVL <400>173  
VLSKVLDLK <400>175  
TSKVLDLKNI <400>177  
KVLDLKNYID <400>179  
LDLKNYIDKQ <400>181  
LKNYIDKQLL <400>183  
NYIDKQLLPI <400>185

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QLLMQSTQAT <400>82  
LMQSTQATNN <400>84  
QSTQATNNRA <400>86  
TQATNNRAR <400>88  
ATNNRARREL <400>90  
NNRARRELPR <400>92  
RARRELPRFM <400>94  
RRELPRFMNY <400>96  
ELPRFMNYTL <400>98  
PRFMNYTLNN <400>100  
FMNYTLNNAK <400>102  
NYTLNNAKKT <400>104  
TLNNAKKTNTV <400>106  
NNAKKTNTVTL <400>108  
AKKTNTVTLSSK <400>110  
KKTNTVTLSSKR <400>112  
NVTLSSKKRR <400>114  
TLSSKKRRRF <400>116  
SKKKRRRFLG <400>118  
KRKKRRRFLGF <400>120  
KRRRFLGFLG <400>122  
RFLGFLGVLG <400>124  
LGFLGVGSA <400>126  
FLLGVGSAIA <400>128  
LGVGSAIASG <400>130  
VGSAIASGVA <400>132  
SAIASGVAVS <400>134  
IASGVAVSKV <400>136  
SGVAVSKVLH <400>138  
VAVSKVLHLE <400>140  
VSKVLHLEGE <400>142  
KVLHLEGEVN <400>144  
LHLEGEVNKI <400>146  
LEGEVNKIKS <400>148  
GEVNKIKSAL <400>150  
VNKIKSALLS <400>152  
KIKSALLSTN <400>154  
KSALLSTNKA <400>156  
ALLSTNKAVV <400>158  
LSTNKAVVSL <400>160  
TNKAVVSLSN <400>162  
KAVVSLSNGV <400>164  
VVSLSNGVSV <400>166  
SLSNGVSVLT <400>168  
SNGVSVLTSK <400>170  
GVSVLTSKVL <400>172  
SVLTSKVLDL <400>174  
LTSKVLDLKN <400>176  
SKVLDLKNYI <400>178  
VLDLKNYIDK <400>180  
DLKNYIDKQL <400>182  
KNYIDKQLLP <400>184  
YIDKQLLPIV <400>186

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IDKQLLPVNV <400>187  
KQLLPVNVKQ <400>189  
LLPIVNVKQSC <400>191  
PIVNVKQSCSI <400>193  
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SISNIETVIE <400>201  
SNIETVIEFQ <400>203  
IETVIEFQOK <400>205  
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IEFQOKNNRL <400>209  
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RLLEITREFS <400>217  
LEITREFSVN <400>219  
ITREFSVNAG <400>221  
REFSVNAGVT <400>223  
FSVNAGVTPV <400>225  
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VTPVSTYML <400>231  
TPVSTYMLTN <400>233  
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TYMLTNSELL <400>237  
MLTNSELLSL <400>239  
TNSELLSLIN <400>241  
SELLSLINDM <400>243  
LLSLINDMPI <400>245  
SLINDMPITN <400>247  
INDMPITNDQ <400>249  
DMPITNDQKK <400>251  
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SIMSIIKEEV <400>275  
MSIIKEEVLA <400>277  
IIKEEVLAYV <400>279  
KEEVLAYVVQ <400>281  
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LAYVVQLPLY <400>285  
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LYGVIDTPCW <400>293

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IVNVKQSCSIS <400>194  
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ISNIETVIEF <400>202  
NIETVIEFQQ <400>204  
ETVIEFQOKN <400>206  
VIEFQOKNNR <400>208  
EFQOKNNRLL <400>210  
QOKNNRLLLEI <400>212  
KNNRLLLEITR <400>214  
NNRLLLEITRE <400>216  
LLEITREFSV <400>218  
EITREFSVNA <400>220  
TREFSVNAGV <400>222  
EFSVNAGVTT <400>224  
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VVQLPLYGVI <400>288  
QLPLYGVIDT <400>290  
PLYGVIDTPC <400>292  
YGVIDTPCWK <400>294

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GVIDTPCWKL <400>295  
IDTPCWKLHT <400>297  
TPCWKLHTSP <400>299  
CWKLHTSPLC <400>301  
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DIFNPKYDCK <400>373  
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YDCKIMTSKT <400>379  
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IMTSKTDVSS <400>383  
TSKTDVSSSV <400>385  
KTDVSSSVIT <400>387  
DVSSSVITSL <400>389  
SSSVITSLGA <400>391  
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SLGAIVSCYG <400>397  
GAIVSCYGKT <400>399  
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FCDTMNSLTL <400>354  
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PSEVNLCNVD <400>364  
EVNLCNVDIF <400>366  
NLCNVDIFNP <400>368  
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KYDCKIMTSK <400>378  
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KIMTSKTDVS <400>382  
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VITSLGAIVS <400>394  
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LGAIVSCYGK <400>398  
AIVSCYGKTK <400>400  
VSCYGKTKCT <400>402

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SCYGKTKCTA	<400>403	CYGKTKCTAS	<400>404
YGKTKCTASN	<400>405	GKTKCTASNK	<400>406
KTKCTASNKN	<400>407	TKCTASNKNR	<400>408
KCTASNKNRG	<400>409	CTASNKNRGI	<400>410
TASNKNRGII	<400>411	ASNKNRGI IK	<400>412
SNKNRGI IKT	<400>413	NKNRGI IKT F	<400>414
KNRGI IKTFS	<400>415	NRGI IKTFSN	<400>416
RGI IKTFSNG	<400>417	GI IKTFSNGC	<400>418
I IKTFSNGCD	<400>419	IKTFSNGCDY	<400>420
KTFSNGCDYV	<400>421	TFSNGCDYVS	<400>422
FSNGCDYVSN	<400>423	SNGCDYVSNK	<400>424
NGCDYVSNKG	<400>425	GCDYVSNKGV	<400>426
CDYVSNKGV D	<400>427	DYVSNKGVDT	<400>428
YVSNKGVDTV	<400>429	VSNKGVDTV S	<400>430
SNKGVDTVSV	<400>431	NKGVDTV SVG	<400>432
KGVDTVSVGN	<400>433	GVDTVSVGNT	<400>434
VDTVSVGNTL	<400>435	DTVSVGNTLY	<400>436
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SVGNTLYYVN	<400>439	VGNTLYYV NK	<400>440
GNTLYYV NKQ	<400>441	NTLYYV NKQE	<400>442
TLYYV NKQEG	<400>443	LYYV NKQEGK	<400>444
YYV NKQEGKS	<400>445	YV NKQEGKSL	<400>446
VNKQEGKSLY	<400>447	NKQEGKSLYV	<400>448
KQEGKSLYVK	<400>449	QEGKSLYVKG	<400>450
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KSLYVKGEPI	<400>453	SLYVKGEPI I	<400>454
LYVKGEPI IN	<400>455	YVKGEPI INF	<400>456
VKGEPI INFY	<400>457	KGEPI INFYD	<400>458
GEPI INFYDP	<400>459	EPI INFYDPL	<400>460
PI INFYDPLV	<400>461	I INFYDPLVF	<400>462
INFYDPLVFP	<400>463	NFYDPLVFPS	<400>464
FYDPLVFPSD	<400>465	YDPLVFPSDE	<400>466
DPLVFPSDEF	<400>467	PLVFPSDEFD	<400>468
LVFPSDEFDA	<400>469	VFPSDEFDAS	<400>470
FPSDEFDASI	<400>471	PSDEFDASIS	<400>472
SDEFDASISQ	<400>473	DEFDASISQV	<400>474
EFDASISQVN	<400>475	FDASISQVNE	<400>476
DASISQVNEK	<400>477	ASISQVNEKI	<400>478
SISQVNEKIN	<400>479	ISQVNEKINQ	<400>480
SQVNEKINQS	<400>481	QVNEKINQSL	<400>482
VNEKINQSLA	<400>483	NEKINQSLAF	<400>484
EKINQSLAFI	<400>485	KINQSLAFIR	<400>486
INQSLAFIRK	<400>487	NQSLAFIRKS	<400>488
QSLAFIRKSD	<400>489	SLAFIRKSDE	<400>490
LAFIRKSDEL	<400>491	AFIRKSDELL	<400>492
FIRKSDELLH	<400>493	IRKSDELLHN	<400>494
RKSDELLHNV	<400>495	KSDELLHNVN	<400>496
SDELLHNVNA	<400>497	DELLHNVNAG	<400>498
ELLHNVNAGK	<400>499	LLHNVNAGKS	<400>500
LHNVNAGKST	<400>501	HNVNAGKSTT	<400>502
NVNAGKSTTN	<400>503	VNAGKSTTNI	<400>504
NAGKSTTNIM	<400>505	AGKSTTNIMI	<400>506
GKSTTNIMIT	<400>507	KSTTNIMITT	<400>508
STTNIMITTI	<400>509	TTNIMITTII	<400>510

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TNIMITTIII <400>511	NIMITTIIIV <400>512
IMITTIIIVI <400>513	MITTIIIVII <400>514
ITTTIIIVIIV <400>515	TTIIIVIIIVI <400>516
TIIIVIIIVIL <400>517	IIIVIIIVILL <400>518
IIVIIIVILLS <400>519	IVIIIVILLSL <400>520
VIIIVILLSLI <400>521	IIVILLSLIA <400>522
IVILLSLIAV <400>523	VILLSLIAVG <400>524
ILLSLIAVGL <400>525	LLSLIAVGLL <400>526
LSLIAVGLLL <400>527	SLIAVGLLLY <400>528
LIAVGLLLYC <400>529	IAVGLLLYCK <400>530
AVGLLLYCKA <400>531	VGLLLYCKAR <400>532
GLLLYCKARS <400>533	LLLYCKARST <400>534
LLYCKARSTP <400>535	LYCKARSTPV <400>536
YCKARSTPVT <400>537	CKARSTPVTL <400>538
KARSTPVTLS <400>539	ARSTPVTLSK <400>540
RSTPVTLSKD <400>541	STPVTLSKDQ <400>542
TPVTLSKDQL <400>543	PVTLSKDQLS <400>544
VTLSKDQLSG <400>545	TLSKDQLSGI <400>546
LSKDQLSGIN <400>547	SKDQLSGINN <400>548
KDQLSGINNI <400>549	DQLSGINNIA <400>550
QLSGINNIAF <400>551	LSGINNIAFS <400>552
SGINNIAFSN <400>553	

43. The agent according to claim 42 wherein said antagonist interacts with a sequence selected from <400>88, <400>89, <400>90, <400>91, <400>92, <400>93 or <400>94.

44. A viral F protein variant comprising a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits modulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant.

45. The variant according to claim 44 wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.

46. The variant according to claim 44 or claim 45 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.

47. The variant according to claim 46 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.

48. The variant according to claim 47 wherein said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

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49. The variant according to claim 48 wherein said variant comprises a mutation in the cleavage site defined by amino acids RARR (<400>564).

50. The variant according to claim 49 wherein said mutation comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the following list:

- (i) R106G
- (ii) A107Q
- (iii) R108G.

51. The variant according to claim 50 wherein said variant comprises the sequence substantially as set forth in <400>565.

52. The variant according to any one of claims 44-48 wherein said variant comprises a multiple amino acid deletion from the intervening peptide sequence.

53. The variant according to claim 52 wherein said amino acid deletion is a partial deletion of the intervening peptide sequence.

54. The variant according to claim 53 wherein said deletion is a deletion of the peptide sequence

RARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNVTLS <400>569

55. The variant according to claim 54 wherein said variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>567.

56. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the list consisting of:



- (i) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits modulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.
- (ii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.
- (iii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a mutation in the cleavage site defined by amino acids RARR wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.
- (iv) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or equivalent thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the following list:

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- (a) R106G
  - (b) A107Q
  - (c) R108G
- (v) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a multiple amino acid deletion from the intervening peptide sequence wherein said variant exhibits down-regulated functional activity relative to wild-type F protein.
- (vi) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises a partial deletion of the intervening peptide sequence and more preferably a deletion of the peptide sequence
- RARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNTLS <400>569.
- (vii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>567.
- (viii) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative, homologue,

analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said variant, which variant comprises the amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in <400>565.

(ix) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising the nucleotide substantially as set forth in <400>568.

(x) An isolated nucleic acid molecule or derivative or analogue thereof comprising the nucleotide substantially as set forth in <400>566.

57. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 56 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.

58. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.

59. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 58 wherein said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.

60. A recombinant viral construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule comprises codons optimised for expression in a eukaryotic cell, wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein.

61. A recombinant viral construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral F protein variant or derivative thereof wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein variant.

62. A vaccine comprising a recombinant viral construct which construct comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein or derivative thereof,

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the nucleic sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression in a eukaryotic cell wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein.

63. A vaccine comprising a recombinant viral construct which construct comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a respiratory syncytial virus F protein variant or derivative thereof, wherein said recombinant viral construct is effective in inducing, enhancing or otherwise stimulating an immune response to said F protein variant.

64. A vaccine according to claim 62 or claim 63 wherein said nucleotide sequence is defined in one of <400>5, <400>6, <400>566 or <400>568.

65. Use of the agent according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 to modulate F protein functional activity.

66. Use of the agent according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 in the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of conditions characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

67. A method of modulating at least one functional activity associated with a viral F protein in a subject, said method comprising introducing into said subject an effective amount of a F protein modulatory agent according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 for a time and under conditions sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

68. The method according to claim 68 wherein said functional activity is F protein mediated host cell virion fusion and/or virion budding and said modulating is down-regulation.

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69. A method of modulating at least one functional activity associated with a viral F protein, said method comprising contacting said viral F protein with an effective amount of a F protein modulatory agent according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 for a time and under conditions sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

70. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an agent according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 which agent is capable of down-regulating at least one functional activity of the F protein expressed by said virus, for a time and under conditions sufficient for said agent to interact with said F protein.

71. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded virus in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof and/or a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule for a time and under conditions sufficient for said composition to down regulate said viral F protein functional activity.

72. The method according to claim 71 wherein said subject is a mammal.

73. The method according to claim 72 wherein said mammal is a human.

74. Use of an agent capable of modulating at least one functional activity of a viral F protein which agent according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with negative sense

single stranded RNA virus.

75. Use of a composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

76. Use of an agent, which agent, according to any one of claims 41-43 or identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40 in the manufacture of a medicament for the modulation of at least one viral F protein associated functional activity.

77. Agents for use in modulating the functional activity of a viral F protein wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the method of any one of claims 34-40.

78. Agents for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the methods of any one of claims 34-40.

79. A composition comprising an F protein or derivative thereof, F protein variant or derivative thereof, a nucleic acid molecule encoding said F protein or F protein variant or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein or nucleic acid molecule for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterised by infection with a negative sense single stranded RNA virus.

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MELLILKANAIITILTAVTFCFASGQNIITEEFYQSTCSAVSKGYLSALRTGWYTSVITIELSNIKKNKCN 70  
GTDKVKLIKQELDKYKNAVTELLMQSTQATNNRARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNVTLSSKKRRRFLGF 140  
LLGVGSAIASGVAVSKVLHLEGEVNIKIKSALLSTNKAVVSLNMGVSVLTSKVLDLKNYIDKQLLPVKNQ 210  
SCSISNIETVIEFQKNNRLLLEITREFSVNAGVTPVSTYMLTNSELLSLINDMPIITNDQKKLMSNNVQI 280  
VRQQSYSIMSIKEEVLAYVVQPLPLYGVIDTPCWKLHTSPLCTTNTKEGSNICLTRDRGWYCDNAGSVS 350  
FFPQAECKVQSNRVFCDTMNSLTLPSEVNLGNVDIFNPKYDCKIMTSKTDVSSSVITSLGAIVSCYGKT 420  
KCTASNKNRGIKTFESNGCDYVSNKGVDTVSVGNTLYYVKNQEGKSLYVKGEPIINFYDPLVFPSDEFDA 490  
SISQVNEKINQSLAFIRKSDELLHNVNAGKSTTNIMITTIIIVILLSLIAVGLLLYCKARSTPVTLS 560  
KDQLSGINNIAFSN\* 574

Figure 1a

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MELLILKANAIITILTAVTFCFASGQNIITEEFYQSTCSAVSKGYLSALRTGWYTSVITIELSNIKKNKCN 70  
GTDKVKLIKQELDKYKNAVTELLMQSTQATNNRARRELPRFMNYTLNNAKKTNTVLSKKRRRFLGF 140  
LLGVGSAIASGVAVSKVLHLEGEVNIKSALLSTNKAVVSLNMGVSVLTSKVLDLKNYIDKQLLPVVKQ 210  
SCSISNIETVIEFQQKNNRLLLEITREFSVNAGVTPVSTYMLTNSSELLSLINDMPIITNDQKKLMSNNVQI 280  
VRQQSYSIMSIIKEEVLAYVVQLPLYGVIDTPCWKLHTSPLCTTNTKEGSNICLTRDRGWYCDNAGSVS 350  
FFPQAECKVQSNRVFCDTMNSLTLPSEVNLNCNVDIFNPKYDCKIMTSKTDVSSSVITSLGAIVSCYGKT 420  
KCTASNKNRGIKTFNSNGCDYVSNKGVDTVSVGNTLYYVVKQEGKSLYVKGEPIINFYDPLVFPSDEFDA 490  
SISQVNEKINQSLAFIRKSDELLHNVNAGKSTTN 524

Figure 1b



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# F and F<sub>sol</sub> forms of the RSV fusion Protein

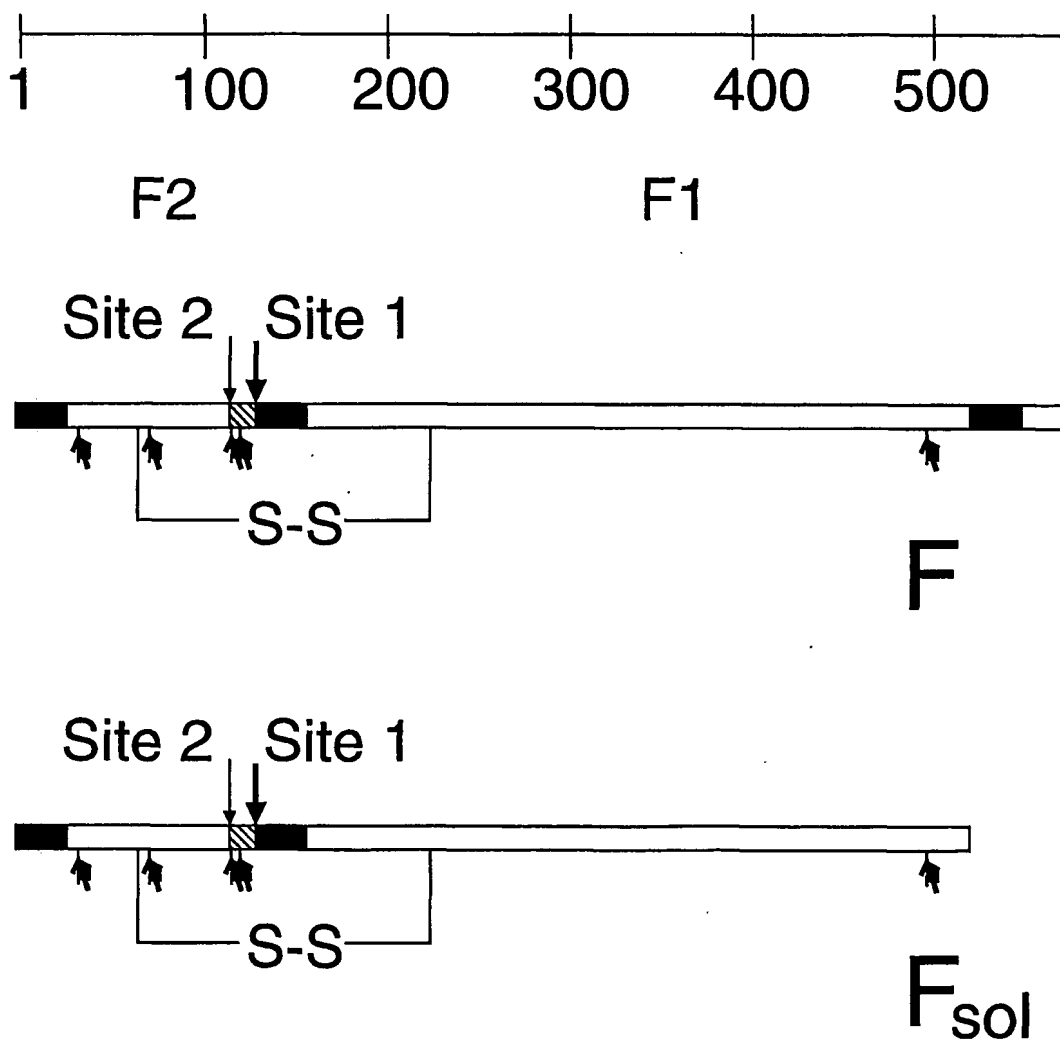


Figure 1c  
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(i)
(ii)
(iii)
(iv)
(v)
(vi)
(vii)

Figure 2a  
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# ClustalW Formatted Alignments

		10	20	30																										
<i>F.viral</i>	A	T	G	G	A	G	T	T	G	C	T	A	A	T	C	C	T	C	A	A	A	G	C	A	A	A	T	G	C	A
<i>F</i>	A	T	G	G	A	G	T	T	G	C	T	A	A	T	C	C	T	C	A	A	A	G	C	A	A	A	T	G	C	A
<i>F.opt</i>	A	T	G	G	A	G	C	T	G	C	T	G	A	T	C	C	T	G	A	A	G	G	C	C	A	A	C	G	C	C
	A	T	G	G	A	G	T	T	G	C	T	A	A	T	C	C	T	C	A	A	A	G	C	A	A	A	T	G	C	A

		40	50	60																										
<i>F.viral</i>	A	T	T	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	T	C	C	T	C	A	C	T	G	C	A	G	T	C	A	C	A	T	T	T
<i>F</i>	A	T	T	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	T	C	C	T	C	A	C	T	G	C	G	G	T	C	A	C	C	T	T	T
<i>F.opt</i>	A	T	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	T	C	C	T	G	A	C	C	G	C	G	G	T	G	A	C	C	T	T	C
	A	T	T	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	T	C	C	T	C	A	C	T	G	C	G	G	T	C	A	C	C	T	T	T

		70	80	90																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	G	T	T	T	G	C	T	T	C	T	G	G	T	C	A	A	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	C	T	G	A	A	
<i>F</i>	T	G	T	T	T	G	C	T	T	C	T	G	G	T	C	A	A	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	C	T	G	A	A	
<i>F.opt</i>	T	G	C	T	T	C	G	C	C	T	C	T	G	G	C	C	A	G	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	C	T	G	A	G
	T	G	T	T	T	G	C	T	T	C	T	G	G	T	C	A	A	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	C	T	G	A	A	

		100	110	120																									
<i>F.viral</i>	G	A	A	T	T	T	A	T	C	A	A	T	C	A	A	C	A	T	G	C	A	G	T	G	C	A	G	T	T
<i>F</i>	G	A	A	T	T	T	A	T	C	A	A	T	C	A	A	C	A	T	G	C	A	G	T	G	C	A	G	T	T
<i>F.opt</i>	G	A	G	T	T	C	T	A	C	C	A	G	A	G	C	A	C	T	T	G	T	T	C	G	C	T	G	T	G
	G	A	A	T	T	T	A	T	C	A	A	T	C	A	A	C	A	T	G	C	A	G	T	G	C	A	G	T	T

		130	140	150																										
<i>F.viral</i>	A	G	C	A	A	A	G	G	C	T	A	T	C	T	T	A	G	T	G	C	T	C	T	G	A	G	A	A	C	T
<i>F</i>	A	G	C	A	A	A	G	G	A	T	A	T	C	T	T	A	G	T	G	C	T	C	T	G	A	G	A	A	C	C
<i>F.opt</i>	A	G	C	A	A	A	G	G	C	T	A	C	C	T	G	A	G	C	G	C	C	C	T	G	A	G	A	A	C	C
	A	G	C	A	A	A	G	G	C	T	A	T	C	T	T	A	G	T	G	C	T	C	T	G	A	G	A	A	C	C

		160	170	180																										
<i>F.viral</i>	G	G	T	T	G	G	T	A	T	A	C	C	A	G	T	G	T	T	A	T	A	A	C	T	A	T	A	G	A	A
<i>F</i>	G	G	T	T	G	G	T	A	T	A	C	C	A	G	T	G	T	T	A	T	A	A	C	T	A	T	A	G	A	A
<i>F.opt</i>	G	G	T	T	G	G	T	A	C	A	C	C	A	G	C	G	T	G	A	T	C	A	C	C	A	T	C	G	A	G
	G	G	T	T	G	G	T	A	T	A	C	C	A	G	T	G	T	T	A	T	A	A	C	T	A	T	A	G	A	A

		190	200	210																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	T	A	A	G	T	A	A	T	A	T	C	A	A	G	A	A	A	A	A	T	A	A	G	T	G	T	A	A	T
<i>F</i>	T	T	A	A	G	T	A	A	T	A	T	C	A	A	G	A	A	A	A	A	T	A	A	G	T	G	T	A	A	T
<i>F.opt</i>	C	T	G	A	G	C	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	A	G	A	A	G	A	A	C	A	A	G	T	G	C	A	A	C
	T	T	A	A	G	T	A	A	T	A	T	C	A	A	G	A	A	A	A	A	T	A	A	G	T	G	T	A	A	T

		220	230	240																										
<i>F.viral</i>	G	G	A	A	C	A	G	A	T	G	C	T	A	A	G	G	T	A	A	A	A	T	T	G	A	T	A	A	A	A
<i>F</i>	G	G	T	A	C	C	G	A	T	G	C	T	A	A	G	G	T	A	A	A	A	T	T	G	A	T	A	A	A	A
<i>F.opt</i>	G	G	C	A	C	C	G	A	C	G	C	C	A	A	G	G	T	G	A	A	G	C	T	G	A	T	C	A	A	G
	G	G	A	A	C	G	A	T	G	C	T	A	A	G	G	T	A	A	A	A	T	T	G	A	T	A	A	A	A	A

Figure 2a(i)

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		250	260	270
<i>F.viral</i>		C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
<i>F</i>		C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
<i>F.opt</i>		C A A G A G C T G G A C A A G T A C A A G A A C G C C G T G		
		C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
		280	290	300
<i>F.viral</i>		A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A A A G C A C A		
<i>F</i>		A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A G T C G A C A		
<i>F.opt</i>		A C C G A G C T G C A A C T G C T G A T G C A G T C G A C T		
		A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A G T C G A C A		
		310	320	330
<i>F.viral</i>		C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
<i>F</i>		C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
<i>F.opt</i>		C A A G C C A C C A A C A A C A G A G C C C G C A G A G A G		
		C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
		340	350	360
<i>F.viral</i>		C T A C C A A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
<i>F</i>		C T A C C T A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
<i>F.opt</i>		C T G C C C C G C T T C A T G A A C T A C A C C C T G A A C		
		C T A C C A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
		370	380	390
<i>F.viral</i>		A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A T T A A G C		
<i>F</i>		A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A C T T T C G		
<i>F.opt</i>		A A C G C C A A G A A G A C C A A C G T G A C C C T G T C C		
		A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A C T T C C		
		400	410	420
<i>F.viral</i>		A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
<i>F</i>		A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
<i>F.opt</i>		A A G A A G A G G A A G C G C C G C T T C C T G G G C T T C		
		A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
		430	440	450
<i>F.viral</i>		T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C T G C A A T C G C C A G T		
<i>F</i>		T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C C G C A A T C G C C A G T		
<i>F.opt</i>		C T G C T G G G C G T G G G C T C C G C C A T T G C C A G T		
		T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C C G C A A T C G C C A G T		
		460	470	480
<i>F.viral</i>		G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
<i>F</i>		G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A T C T A		
<i>F.opt</i>		G G C G T G G C C G T G T C C A A G G T G C T G C A C C T G		
		G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
		490	500	510
<i>F.viral</i>		G A A G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
<i>F</i>		G A G G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
<i>F.opt</i>		G A G G G C G A G G T G A A C A A G A T C A A G A G T G C C		
		G A G G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		

Figure 2a(ii)

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	520	530	540
<i>F.viral</i>	CTACTATCCACAAACAAGGCTGTAGTCAGC		
<i>F</i>	CTACTATCCACAAACAAGGCTGTAGTCAGC		
<i>F.opt</i>	CTGCTGTCCACTAACAAAGGCCTGTTGGTGAGC		
	CTACTATCCACAAACAAGGCTGTAGTCAGC		
	550	560	570
<i>F.viral</i>	TTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAAGC		
<i>F</i>	TTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAAGC		
<i>F.opt</i>	CTGAGCAACCGGCCTGAGTGTGCTGACTAGC		
	TTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAAGC		
	580	590	600
<i>F.viral</i>	AAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAAACCTATATAGAT		
<i>F</i>	AAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAAACCTATATAGAT		
<i>F.opt</i>	AAAGGTGCTGGACCTGAAGAACTACATCGAC		
	AAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAAACCTATATAGAT		
	610	620	630
<i>F.viral</i>	AAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAACAAGCAA		
<i>F</i>	AAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAACAAGCAA		
<i>F.opt</i>	AAGCAATTGCTGCCCATCGTGAACAAGCAG		
	AAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAACAAGCAA		
	640	650	660
<i>F.viral</i>	AGCTGCAGCATATCAAATATAGAAACTGTG		
<i>F</i>	AGCTGCAGCATATCAAATATAGAAACTGTG		
<i>F.opt</i>	TCCTGTAGCATCTCCAAACATCGAGACTGTG		
	AGCTGCAGCATATCAAATATAGAAACTGTG		
	670	680	690
<i>F.viral</i>	ATAGAGTTCCAACAAGGAACAACAGACTA		
<i>F</i>	ATAGAGTTCCAACAAGGAACAACAGACTA		
<i>F.opt</i>	ATCGAGTTCCAGCAGAAAGAACAAACCGCCTG		
	ATAGAGTTCCAACAAGGAACAACAGACTA		
	700	710	720
<i>F.viral</i>	CTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAAT		
<i>F</i>	CTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAAT		
<i>F.opt</i>	CTGGAAATCACCCGGGAGTTTCAGTGTGAAC		
	CTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAAT		
	730	740	750
<i>F.viral</i>	GCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAAGCACTTAC		
<i>F</i>	GCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAAGCACTTAC		
<i>F.opt</i>	GCTGGCGTGAACCACTCCTGTCTCCACCCTAC		
	GCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAAGCACTTAC		
	760	770	780
<i>F.viral</i>	ATGTTAACTAATAGTGAATTATTGTCATT		
<i>F</i>	ATGTTAACTAATAGTGAATTATTGTCATT		
<i>F.opt</i>	ATGCTGACCAACAGCGAGCTGCTGAGCCTG		
	ATGTTAACTAATAGTGAATTATTGTCATT		

Figure 2a(iii)

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	790	800	810
<i>F.viral</i>	ATCAATGATATG	CCTATAACAAATG	ATCAG
<i>F</i>	ATCAATGATATG	CCTATAACAAATG	ATCAG
<i>F.opt</i>	ATCAACGACATG	CCCATCACCAACG	ACCAG
	ATCAATGATATG	CCTATAACAAATG	ATCAG
	820	830	840
<i>F.viral</i>	AAAAAGTTAATGT	CCAACAATGTTCAA	ATA
<i>F</i>	AAAAAGTTAATGT	CCAACAATGTTCAA	ATA
<i>F.opt</i>	AAGAAGCTTATGT	CCAACAACGTCG	CAGATC
	AAAAAGTTAATGT	CCAACAATGTTCAA	ATA
	850	860	870
<i>F.viral</i>	GTTAGACAGCAAAG	TACTCTATCATGT	CC
<i>F</i>	GTTAGACAGCAAAG	TACTCTATCATGT	CC
<i>F.opt</i>	GTGAGGCAGCAGAG	CTACTCCATCATG	AGC
	GTTAGACAGCAAAG	TACTCTATCATGT	CC
	880	890	900
<i>F.viral</i>	ATAATAAAGAGGAAG	CTTAGCATATGTA	
<i>F</i>	ATAATAAAGAGGAAG	CTTAGCATATGTA	
<i>F.opt</i>	ATCATCAAGGAGGAG	GTGCTGGGCCTAT	GTG
	ATAATAAAGAGGAAG	CTTAGCATATGTA	
	910	920	930
<i>F.viral</i>	GTACAATTACCACTAT	TGGTGTATAGAT	
<i>F</i>	GTACAATTACCACTAT	TGGTGTATAGAT	
<i>F.opt</i>	GTGCAGCTGCCCCCT	GTACGGCGTCATC	GAT
	GTACAATTACCACTAT	TGGTGTATAGAT	
	940	950	960
<i>F.viral</i>	ACACCCTGTTGGA	AACTACACACATCC	CCT
<i>F</i>	ACACCCTGTTGGA	AACTACACACATCC	CCT
<i>F.opt</i>	ACCCCTTTGCTGG	AAGCTGCACACAGC	CCC
	ACACCCTGTTGGA	AACTACACACATCC	CCT
	970	980	990
<i>F.viral</i>	CTATGTACAACC	AACACAAAAGAA	AGGGTCC
<i>F</i>	CTATGTACAACC	AACACAAAAGAA	AGGGTCC
<i>F.opt</i>	CTGTGCACCAACC	AACACAAAGGA	AGGGCAGC
	CTATGTACAACC	AACACAAAAGAA	AGGGTCC
	1000	1010	1020
<i>F.viral</i>	AACATCTGTTTAACA	AAGAACTGACAGAG	GGA
<i>F</i>	AACATCTGTTTAACA	AAGAACTGACAGAG	GGA
<i>F.opt</i>	AACATCTGCTTG	ACCCGGACCGACCG	CGGC
	AACATCTGTTTAACA	AAGAACTGACAGAG	GGA
	1030	1040	1050
<i>F.viral</i>	TGGTACTGTGACA	AATGCAGGATCAGTA	TCT
<i>F</i>	TGGTACTGTGACA	AATGCAGGATCAGTA	TCT
<i>F.opt</i>	TGGTACTGTGACA	ACGCTGGCTC	GGTGAGC
	TGGTACTGTGACA	AATGCAGGATCAGTA	TCT

Figure 2a(iv)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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		1060	1070	1080
<i>F.viral</i>		T T C T T C C C A C A A G C T G A A A C A T G T A A A G T T		
<i>F</i>		T T C T T C C C A C A A G C T G A A A C A T G T A A A G T T		
<i>F.opt</i>		T T C T T C C C T C A A G C T G A A A C C T G C A A G G T C		
		T T C T T C C C A C A A G C T G A A A C A T G T A A A G T T		
		1090	1100	1110
<i>F.viral</i>		C A A T C A A A T C G A G T A T T T T G T G A C A C A A T G		
<i>F</i>		C A A T C A A A T C G A G T A T T T T G T G A C A C A A T G		
<i>F.opt</i>		C A G A G C A A C A G A G T G T T C T G T G A C A C C A T G		
		C A A T C A A A T C G A G T A T T T T G T G A C A C A A T G		
		1120	1130	1140
<i>F.viral</i>		A A C A G T T T A A C A T T A C C A A G T G A A G T A A A T		
<i>F</i>		A A C A G T T T A A C A T T A C C A A G T G A A G T A A A T		
<i>F.opt</i>		A A C T C C C T G A C C C T G C C C T C C G A G G T G A A C		
		A A C A G T T T A A C A T T A C C A A G T G A A G T A A A T		
		1150	1160	1170
<i>F.viral</i>		C T C T G C A A T G T T G A C A T A T T C A A C C C C A A A		
<i>F</i>		C T C T G C A A T G T T G A C A T A T T C A A C C C C A A A		
<i>F.opt</i>		C T G T G C A A C G T G G A T A T C T T C A A C C C C A A G		
		C T C T G C A A T G T T G A C A T A T T C A A C C C C A A A		
		1180	1190	1200
<i>F.viral</i>		T A T G A T T G T A A A A T T A T G A C T T C A A A A A C A		
<i>F</i>		T A T G A T T G T A A A A T T A T G A C T T C A A A A A C A		
<i>F.opt</i>		T A T G A C T G C A A G A T C A T G A C C T C C A A G A C C		
		T A T G A T T G T A A A A T T A T G A C T T C A A A A A C A		
		1210	1220	1230
<i>F.viral</i>		G A T G T A A G C A G C T C C G T T A T C A C A T C T C T A		
<i>F</i>		G A T G T A A G C A G C T C C G T T A T C A C A T C T C T A		
<i>F.opt</i>		G A T G T C T C G A G C T C C G T G A T C A C C A G C C T G		
		G A T G T A A G C A G C T C C G T T A T C A C A T C T C T A		
		1240	1250	1260
<i>F.viral</i>		G G A G C C A T T G T G T C A T G C T A T G G C A A A A C T		
<i>F</i>		G G A G C C A T T G T G T C A T G C T A T G G C A A A A C T		
<i>F.opt</i>		G G C G C C A T C G T G T C C T G C T A T G G C A A G A C C		
		G G A G C C A T T G T G T C A T G C T A T G G C A A A A C T		
		1270	1280	1290
<i>F.viral</i>		A A A T G T A C A G C A T C C A A T A A A A A T C G T G G A		
<i>F</i>		A A A T G T A C A G C A T C C A A T A A A A A T C G T G G A		
<i>F.opt</i>		A A G T G C A C C G C C A G C A A C A A G A A C C G G G G C		
		A A A T G T A C A G C A T C C A A T A A A A A T C G T G G A		
		1300	1310	1320
<i>F.viral</i>		A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
<i>F</i>		A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
<i>F.opt</i>		A T C A T C A A G A C C T T C A G C A A T G G G T G C G A C		
		A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		

Figure 2a(v)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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		1330	1340	1350																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	A	T	G	T	A	T	C	A	A	T	A	A	A	G	G	G	G	T	G	G	A	C	A	C	T	G	T	G	
<i>F</i>	T	A	T	G	T	A	T	C	A	A	T	A	A	A	G	G	G	G	T	G	G	A	C	A	C	T	G	T	G	
<i>F.opt</i>	T	A	C	G	T	T	T	C	G	A	A	C	A	A	G	G	G	C	G	T	G	G	A	C	A	C	T	G	T	G
	T	A	T	G	T	A	T	C	A	A	T	A	A	A	G	G	G	G	T	G	G	A	C	A	C	T	G	T	G	
		1360	1370	1380																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	C	T	G	T	A	G	G	T	A	A	C	A	C	A	T	T	A	T	A	T	T	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	T
<i>F</i>	T	C	T	G	T	A	G	G	T	A	A	C	A	C	A	T	T	A	T	A	T	T	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	T
<i>F.opt</i>	T	C	C	G	T	G	G	G	C	A	A	C	A	C	C	C	T	G	T	A	C	T	A	C	G	T	G	A	A	C
	T	C	T	G	T	A	G	G	T	A	A	C	A	C	A	T	T	A	T	A	T	T	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	T
		1390	1400	1410																										
<i>F.viral</i>	A	A	G	C	A	A	G	A	A	G	G	T	A	A	A	A	G	T	C	T	C	T	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	A
<i>F</i>	A	A	G	C	A	A	G	A	A	G	G	T	A	A	A	A	G	T	C	T	C	T	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	A
<i>F.opt</i>	A	A	G	C	A	A	G	A	G	G	G	C	A	A	G	A	G	C	C	T	G	T	A	T	G	T	G	A	A	G
	A	A	G	C	A	A	G	A	A	G	G	T	A	A	A	A	G	T	C	T	C	T	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	A
		1420	1430	1440																										
<i>F.viral</i>	G	G	T	G	A	A	C	C	A	A	T	A	A	T	A	A	A	T	T	T	C	T	A	T	G	A	C	C	C	A
<i>F</i>	G	G	T	G	A	A	C	C	A	A	T	A	A	T	A	A	A	T	T	T	C	T	A	T	G	A	C	C	C	A
<i>F.opt</i>	G	G	C	G	A	G	C	C	C	A	T	C	A	T	C	A	A	C	T	T	C	T	A	C	G	A	C	C	C	C
	G	G	T	G	A	A	C	C	A	A	T	A	A	T	A	A	A	T	T	T	C	T	A	T	G	A	C	C	C	A
		1450	1460	1470																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	T	A	G	T	A	T	T	C	C	C	C	T	C	T	G	A	T	G	A	A	T	T	T	G	A	T	G	C	A
<i>F</i>	T	T	A	G	T	A	T	T	C	C	C	C	T	C	T	G	A	T	G	A	A	T	T	T	G	A	C	G	C	G
<i>F.opt</i>	C	T	G	G	T	G	T	T	C	C	C	C	T	C	C	G	A	C	G	A	A	T	T	C	G	A	C	G	C	C
	T	T	A	G	T	A	T	T	C	C	C	C	T	C	T	G	A	T	G	A	A	T	T	T	G	A	C	G	C	
		1480	1490	1500																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	C	A	A	T	A	T	C	T	C	A	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	G	A	G	A	A	G	A	T	T	A	A	C
<i>F</i>	T	C	A	A	T	A	T	C	T	C	A	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	G	A	G	A	A	G	A	T	T	A	A	C
<i>F.opt</i>	T	C	C	A	T	T	A	G	C	C	A	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	G	A	G	A	A	G	A	T	C	A	A	C
	T	C	A	A	T	A	T	C	T	C	A	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	G	A	G	A	A	G	A	T	T	A	A	C
		1510	1520	1530																										
<i>F.viral</i>	C	A	G	A	G	C	C	T	A	G	C	A	T	T	T	A	T	T	C	G	T	A	A	A	T	C	C	G	A	T
<i>F</i>	C	A	G	A	G	C	C	T	A	G	C	A	T	T	T	A	T	T	C	G	T	A	A	A	T	C	C	G	A	T
<i>F.opt</i>	C	A	G	A	G	C	C	T	G	G	C	C	T	T	C	A	T	C	C	G	C	A	A	G	T	C	C	G	A	C
	C	A	G	A	G	C	C	T	A	G	C	A	T	T	T	A	T	T	C	G	T	A	A	A	T	C	C	G	A	T
		1540	1550	1560																										
<i>F.viral</i>	G	A	A	T	T	A	T	T	A	C	A	T	A	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	T	G	C	T	G	G	T	A	A	A
<i>F</i>	G	A	A	T	T	A	T	T	A	C	A	T	A	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	T	G	C	T	G	G	G	A	A	G
<i>F.opt</i>	G	A	G	C	T	G	C	T	G	C	A	C	A	A	C	G	T	C	A	A	C	G	C	T	G	G	C	A	A	G
	G	A	A	T	T	A	T	T	A	C	A	T	A	A	T	G	T	A	A	A	T	G	C	T	G	G		A	A	G
		1570	1580	1590																										
<i>F.viral</i>	T	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	T	A	T	C	A	T	G	A	T	A	A	C	T	A	C	T	A	T	A	
<i>F</i>	A	G	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	T	A	T	C	A	T	G	A	T	A	A	C	T	A	C	T	A	T	A	
<i>F.opt</i>	A	G	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	T	G	A	T	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	T	C	
	A	G	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	A	T	A	T	C	A	T	G	A	T	A	A	C	T	A	C	T	A	T	A	

Figure 2a(vi)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



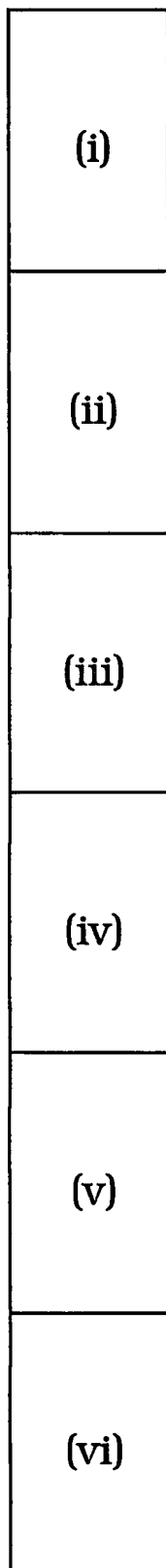
11/40

		1600	1610	1620
<i>F.viral</i>		A T T A T A G T G A T T A T A G T A A T A T T G T T A T C A		
<i>F</i>		A T T A T A G T G A T T A T A G T A A T A T T G T T A T C A		
<i>F.opt</i>		A T C A T C G T G A T C A T C G T G A T C C T G C T G A G C		
		A T T A T A G T G A T T A T A G T A A T A T T G T T A T C A		
		1630	1640	1650
<i>F.viral</i>		T T A A T T G C T G T T G G A C T G C T C T T A T A C T G T		
<i>F</i>		T T A A T T G C T G T T G G A C T G C T C T T A T A C T G T		
<i>F.opt</i>		C T G A T C G C C G T G G G C C T G C T G C T G T A C T G C		
		T T A A T T G C T G T T G G A C T G C T C T T A T A C T G T		
		1660	1670	1680
<i>F.viral</i>		A A G G C C A G A A G C A C A C C A G T C A C A C T A A G C		
<i>F</i>		A A G G C C A G A T C T A C A C C A G T C A C A C T A A G C		
<i>F.opt</i>		A A G G C C C G G A G C A C T C C C G T G A C C C T G A G C		
		A A G G C C A G A A G C A C A C C A G T C A C A C T A A G C		
		1690	1700	1710
<i>F.viral</i>		A A A G A T C A A C T G A G T G G T A T A A A T A A T A T T		
<i>F</i>		A A A G A T C A A C T G A G T G G T A T A A A T A A T A T T		
<i>F.opt</i>		A A G G A C C A G C T G A G C G G C A T C A A C A A C A T C		
		A A A G A T C A A C T G A G T G G T A T A A A T A A T A T T		
		1720	1730	1740
<i>F.viral</i>		G C A T T T A G T A A C T A A		
<i>F</i>		G C A T T T A G T A A C T A A		
<i>F.opt</i>		G C C T T C A G C A A C T G A		
		G C A T T T A G T A A C T A A		

Figure 2a(vii)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

12/40



**Figure 2b**  
**SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)**

13/40

# ClustalW Formatted Alignments

	10	20	30
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A T G G A G T T G C T A A T C C T C A A A G C A A A T G C A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A T G G A G T T G C T A A T C C T C A A A G C A A A T G C A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A T G G A G C T G C T G A T C C T G A A G G C C A A C G C C		
	A T G G A G T T G C T A A T C C T C A A A G C A A A T G C A		
	40	50	60
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A T T A C C A C A A T C C T C A C T G C A G T C A C A T T T T		
<i>F.sol</i>	A T T A C C A C A A T C C T C A C T G C G G T C A C C T T T T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A T C A C C A C C A T C C T G A C C G C G G T G A C C T T T C		
	A T T A C C A C A A T C C T C A C T G C G G T C A C C T T T T		
	70	80	90
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T G T T T T G C T T C T G G T C A A A A C A T C A C T G A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	T G T T T T G C T T C T G G T C A A A A C A T C A C T G A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T G C T T C G C C T C T G G C C A G A A C A T C A C T G A G		
	T G T T T T G C T T C T G G T C A A A A C A T C A C T G A A		
	100	110	120
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G A A T T T T A T C A A T C A A C A T G C A G T G C A G T T T		
<i>F.sol</i>	G A A T T T T A T C A A T C A A C A T G C A G T G C A G T T T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G A G T T C T A C C A G A G C A C T T G T T C C G C T G T G		
	G A A T T T T A T C A A T C A A C A T G C A G T G C A G T T T		
	130	140	150
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A G C A A A G G C T A T C T T A G T G C T C T G A G A A C T		
<i>F.sol</i>	A G C A A A G G A T A T C T T A G T G C T C T G A G A A C C		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A G C A A G G G C T A C C T G A G C G C C C T G A G G A C C		
	A G C A A A G G C T A T C T T A G T G C T C T G A G A A C C		
	160	170	180
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G G T T G G T A T A C C A G T G T T A T A A C T A T A G A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	G G T T G G T A T A C C A G T G T T A T A A C T A T A G A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G G T T G G T A C A C C A G C G T G A T C A C C A T C G A G		
	G G T T G G T A T A C C A G T G T T A T A A C T A T A G A A		
	190	200	210
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T T A A G T A A T A T C A A G A A A A A T A A G T G T A A T		
<i>F.sol</i>	T T A A G T A A T A T C A A G A A A A A T A A G T G T A A T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C T G A G C A A C A T C A A G A A G A A C A A G T G C A A C		
	T T A A G T A A T A T C A A G A A A A A T A A G T G T A A T		
	220	230	240
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G G A A C A G A T G C T A A G G T A A A A T T G A T A A A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	G G T A C C G A T G C T A A G G T A A A A T T G A T A A A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G G C A C C G A C G C C A A G G T G A A G C T G A T C A A G		
	G G A C C G A T G C T A A G G T A A A A T T G A T A A A A		

Figure 2b(i)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

14/40

	250	260	270
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
<i>F.sol</i>	C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C A A G A G C T G G A C A A G T A C A A G A A C G C C G T G		
	C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
	280	290	300
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A A A G C A C A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A G T C G A C A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A C C G A G C T G C A A C T G C T G A T G C A G T C G A C T		
	A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A G T C G A C A		
	310	320	330
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C A A G C C A C C A A C A A C A G A G C C C G C A G A G A G		
	C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
	340	350	360
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C T A C C A A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
<i>F.sol</i>	C T A C C T A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C T G C C C C G C T T C A T G A A C T A C A C C C T G A A C		
	C T A C C A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
	370	380	390
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A T T A A G C		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A T G C C A A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A C T T T C G		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A C G C C A A G A A G A C C A A C G T G A C C C T G T C C		
	A A T G C C A A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A C T T C C		
	400	410	420
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A G A A G A G G A A G C G C C G C T T C C T G G G C T T C		
	A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
	430	440	450
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C T G C A A T C G C C A G T		
<i>F.sol</i>	T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C C G C A A T C G C C A G T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C T G C T G G G C G T G G G C T C C G C C A T T G C C A G T		
	T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C C G C A A T C G C C A G T		
	460	470	480
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
<i>F.sol</i>	G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A T C T A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G G C G T G G C C G T G T C C A A G G T G C T G C A C C T G		
	G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
	490	500	510
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G A A G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
<i>F.sol</i>	G A G G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G A G G G C G A G G T G A A C A A G A T C A A G A G T G C C		
	G A G G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		

Figure 2b(ii)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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	520	530	540
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	CTACTATCCACAAACCAAGGCTGTAGTCAGC		
<i>F.sol</i>	CTACTATCCACAAACCAAGGCTGTAGTCAGC		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	CTGCTGTCCACTAACCAAGGCGGTGGTGAGC		
	CTACTATCCACAAACCAAGGCTGTAGTCAGC		
	550	560	570
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	TTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAAGC		
<i>F.sol</i>	TTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAAGC		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	CTGAGCAACCGGCGTGAAGTGTGCTGACTAGC		
	TTATCAAATGGAGTTAGTGTCTTAACCAAGC		
	580	590	600
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	AAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAAACTATATAGAT		
<i>F.sol</i>	AAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAAACTATATAGAT		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	AAAGGTGCTGGACCTGAAGAACTACATCGAC		
	AAAGTGTTAGACCTCAAAAACTATATAGAT		
	610	620	630
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	AAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAACAAGCAA		
<i>F.sol</i>	AAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAACAAGCAA		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	AAGCAATTGCTGCCCATCGTGAACAAGCAG		
	AAACAATTGTTACCTATTGTGAACAAGCAA		
	640	650	660
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	AGCTGCAGCATATCAAAATATAGAAACTGTG		
<i>F.sol</i>	AGCTGCAGCATATCAAAATATAGAAACTGTG		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	TCCTGTAGCATCTCCAAACATCGAGACTGTG		
	AGCTGCAGCATATCAAAATATAGAAACTGTG		
	670	680	690
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	ATAGAGTTCCAACA AAAAGAAACAACAGACTA		
<i>F.sol</i>	ATAGAGTTCCAACA AAAAGAAACAACAGACTA		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	ATCGAGTTCCAGCAGAAAGAAACAACCGCCTG		
	ATAGAGTTCCAACA AAAAGAAACAACAGACTA		
	700	710	720
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	CTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAAT		
<i>F.sol</i>	CTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAAT		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	CTGGAAATCACCCGGGAGTTTCAGTGTGAAC		
	CTAGAGATTACCAGGGAATTTAGTGTTAAT		
	730	740	750
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	GCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAAGCACTTAC		
<i>F.sol</i>	GCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAAGCACTTAC		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	GCTGGCGTGACCACCTCCTGTCTCCACCTTAC		
	GCAGGTGTAACTACACCTGTAAAGCACTTAC		
	760	770	780
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	ATGTTAACTAATAGTGAATTTATGTCATTA		
<i>F.sol</i>	ATGTTAACTAATAGTGAATTTATGTCATTA		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	ATGCTGACCAACAGCGAGCTGCTGAGCCTG		
	ATGTTAACTAATAGTGAATTTATGTCATTA		

Figure 2b(iii)

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16/40

	790	800	810
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A T C A A T G A T A T G C C T A T A A C A A A T G A T C A G		
<i>F.sol</i>	A T C A A T G A T A T G C C T A T A A C A A A T G A T C A G		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A T C A A C G A C A T G C C C A T C A C C A A C G A C C A G		
	A T C A A T G A T A T G C C T A T A A C A A A T G A T C A G		
	820	830	840
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A A A A G T T A A T G T C C A A C A A T G T T C A A A T A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A A A A G T T A A T G T C C A A C A A T G T T C A A A T A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A G A A G C T T A T G T C C A A C A A C G T G C A G A T C		
	A A A A A G T T A A T G T C C A A C A A T G T T C A A A T A		
	850	860	870
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G T T A G A C A G C A A A G T T A C T C T A T C A T G T C C		
<i>F.sol</i>	G T T A G A C A G C A A A G T T A C T C T A T C A T G T C C		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G T G A G G C A G C A G A G C T A C T C C A T C A T G A G C		
	G T T A G A C A G C A A A G T T A C T C T A T C A T G T C C		
	880	890	900
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A T A A T A A A A G A G G A A G T C T T A G C A T A T G T A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A T A A T A A A A G A G G A A G T C T T A G C A T A T G T A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A T C A T C A A G G A G G A G G T G C T G G C C T A T G T G		
	A T A A T A A A A G A G G A A G T C T T A G C A T A T G T A		
	910	920	930
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G T A C A A T T A C C A C T A T A T G G T G T T A T A G A T		
<i>F.sol</i>	G T A C A A T T A C C A C T A T A T G G T G T T A T A G A T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G T G C A G C T G C C C C T G T A C G G C G T C A T C G A T		
	G T A C A A T T A C C A C T A T A T G G T G T T A T A G A T		
	940	950	960
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A C A C C C T G T T G G A A A C T A C A C A C A T C C C C T		
<i>F.sol</i>	A C A C C C T G T T G G A A A C T A C A C A C A T C C C C T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A C C C C T T G C T G G A A G C T G C A C A C C A G C C C C		
	A C A C C C T G T T G G A A A C T A C A C A C A T C C C C T		
	970	980	990
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C T A T G T A C A A C C A A C A C A A A A G A A G G G T C C		
<i>F.sol</i>	C T A T G T A C A A C C A A C A C A A A A G A A G G G T C C		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C T G T G C A C C A C C A A C A C C A A G G A G G G C A G C		
	C T A T G T A C A A C C A A C A C A A A A G A A G G G T C C		
	1000	1010	1020
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A C A T C T G T T T A A C A A G A A A C T G A C A G A G G A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A C A T C T G T T T A A C A A G A A A C T G A C A G A G G A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A C A T C T G C C T G A C C C G G A C C G A C C G C G G C		
	A A C A T C T G T T T A A C A A G A A A C T G A C A G A G G A		
	1030	1040	1050
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T G G T A C T G T G A C A A T G C A G G A T C A G T A T C T		
<i>F.sol</i>	T G G T A C T G T G A C A A T G C A G G A T C A G T A T C T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T G G T A C T G T G A C A A C G C T G G C T C G G T G A G C		
	T G G T A C T G T G A C A A T G C A G G A T C A G T A T C T		

Figure 2b(iv)

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	1060	1070	1080
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T T C T T C C C A C A A G C T G A A A C A T G T A A A G T T		
<i>F.sol</i>	T T C T T C C C A C A A G C T G A A A C A T G T A A A G T T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T T C T T C C C T C A A G C T G A A A C C T G C A A G G T C		
	T T C T T C C C A C A A G C T G A A A C A T G T A A A G T T		
	1090	1100	1110
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C A A T C A A A T C G A G T A T T T T G T G A C A C A A T G		
<i>F.sol</i>	C A A T C A A A T C G A G T A T T T T G T G A C A C A A T G		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C A G A G C A A C A G A G T G T T C T G T G A C A C C A T G		
	C A A T C A A A T C G A G T A T T T T G T G A C A C A A T G		
	1120	1130	1140
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A C A G T T T A A C A T T A C C A A G T G A A G T A A A T		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A C A G T T T A A C A T T A C C A A G T G A A G T A A A T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A C T C C C T G A C C C T G C C C T C C G A G G T G A A C		
	A A C A G T T T A A C A T T A C C A A G T G A A G T A A A T		
	1150	1160	1170
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C T C T G C A A T G T T G A C A T A T T C A A C C C C A A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	C T C T G C A A T G T T G A C A T A T T C A A C C C C A A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C T G T G C A A C G T G G A T A T C T T C A A C C C C A A G		
	C T C T G C A A T G T T G A C A T A T T C A A C C C C A A A		
	1180	1190	1200
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T A T G A T T G T A A A A T T A T G A C T T C A A A A C A		
<i>F.sol</i>	T A T G A T T G T A A A A T T A T G A C T T C A A A A C A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T A T G A C T G C A A G A T C A T G A C C T C C A A G A C C		
	T A T G A T T G T A A A A T T A T G A C T T C A A A A C A		
	1210	1220	1230
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G A T G T A A G C A G C T C C G T T A T C A C A T C T C T A		
<i>F.sol</i>	G A T G T A A G C A G C T C C G T T A T C A C A T C T C T A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G A T G T C T C G A G C T C C G T G A T C A C C A G C C T G		
	G A T G T A A G C A G C T C C G T T A T C A C A T C T C T A		
	1240	1250	1260
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G G A G C C A T T G T G T C A T G C T A T G G C A A A A C T		
<i>F.sol</i>	G G A G C C A T T G T G T C A T G C T A T G G C A A A A C T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G G C G C C A T C G T G T C C T G C T A T G G C A A G A C C		
	G G A G C C A T T G T G T C A T G C T A T G G C A A A A C T		
	1270	1280	1290
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A A T G T A C A G C A T C C A A T A A A A A T C G T G G A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A A T G T A C A G C A T C C A A T A A A A A T C G T G G A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A G T G C A C C G C C A G C A A C A A G A A C C G G G G C		
	A A A T G T A C A G C A T C C A A T A A A A A T C G T G G A		
	1300	1310	1320
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
<i>F.sol</i>	A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A T C A T C A A G A C C T T C A G C A A T G G G T G C G A C		
	A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		

Figure 2b(v)

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	1330	1340	1350
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T A T G T A T C A A A T A A A G G G G T G G A C A C T G T G		
<i>F.sol</i>	T A T G T A T C A A A T A A A G G G G T G G A C A C T G T G		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T A C G T T T C G A A C A A G G G C G T G G A C A C T G T G		
	T A T G T A T C A A A T A A A G G G G T G G A C A C T G T G		
	1360	1370	1380
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T C T G T A G G T A A C A C A T T A T A T T A T G T A A A T		
<i>F.sol</i>	T C T G T A G G T A A C A C A T T A T A T T A T G T A A A T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T C C G T G G G C A A C A C C C T G T A C T A C G T G A A C		
	T C T G T A G G T A A C A C A T T A T A T T A T G T A A A T		
	1390	1400	1410
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	A A G C A A G A A G G T A A A A G T C T C T A T G T A A A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A A G C A A G A A G G T A A A A G T C T C T A T G T A A A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A A G C A A G A A G G G C A A G A G C C T G T A T G T G A A G		
	A A G C A A G A A G G T A A A A G T C T C T A T G T A A A A		
	1420	1430	1440
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G G T G A A C C A A T A A T A A A T T T C T A T G A C C C A		
<i>F.sol</i>	G G T G A A C C A A T A A T A A A T T T C T A T G A C C C A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G G C G A G C C C A T C A T C A A C T T C T A C G A C C C C		
	G G T G A A C C A A T A A T A A A T T T C T A T G A C C C A		
	1450	1460	1470
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T T A G T A T T C C C C T C T G A T G A A T T T G A T G C A		
<i>F.sol</i>	T T A G T A T T C C C C T C T G A T G A A T T T G A C G C G		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C T G G T G T T C C C C T C C G A C G A A T T C G A C G C C		
	T T A G T A T T C C C C T C T G A T G A A T T T G A C G C		
	1480	1490	1500
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T C A A T A T C T C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T T A A C		
<i>F.sol</i>	T C A A T A T C T C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T T A A C		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	T C C A T T A G C C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T C A A C		
	T C A A T A T C T C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T T A A C		
	1510	1520	1530
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	C A G A G C C T A G C A T T T A T T C G T A A A T C C G A T		
<i>F.sol</i>	C A G A G C C T A G C A T T T A T T C G T A A A T C C G A T		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	C A G A G C C T G G C C T T C A T C C G C A A G T C C G A C		
	C A G A G C C T A G C A T T T A T T C G T A A A T C C G A T		
	1540	1550	1560
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	G A A T T A T T A C A T A A T G T A A A T G C T G G T A A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	G A A T T A T T A C A T A A T G T A A A T G C T G G G A A G		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	G A G C T G C T G C A C A A C G T C A A C G C T G G C A A G		
	G A A T T A T T A C A T A A T G T A A A T G C T G G A A G		
	1570	1580	1590
<i>F.sol.viral</i>	T C C A C C A C A A A T T A A		
<i>F.sol</i>	A G C A C C A C A A A T T A A		
<i>F.sol.opt</i>	A G C A C C A C C A A C T G A		
	A G C A C C A C A A A T T A A		

Figure 2b(vi)

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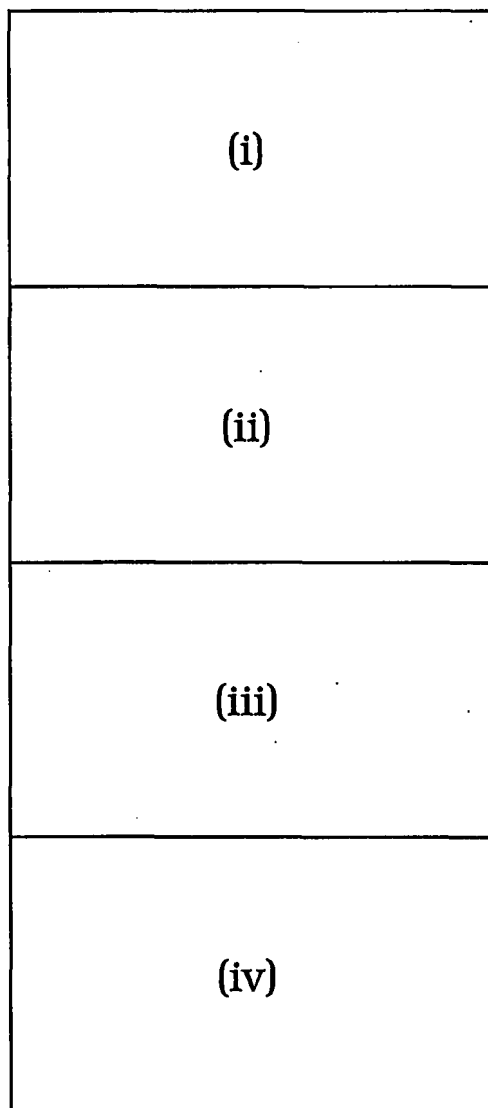


Figure 3a  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

[illegible]

Figure 3a(i)

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[illegible]

Figure 3a(ii)

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>RsrII											
1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100		
CAAGGAGGC	AGCAACATCT	GCGTACCCG	GACCGACCG	GGCTGGTACT	GTGACAACGC	TGGCTCGGTG	AGCTTCTTCC	CTCAAGCTGA	AACCTGCAAG		
GTTCCTCCG	TCGTTGTAGA	CGGACTGGC	CTGGCTGGG	CCGACCATGA	CACCTGTTGG	ACCGAGCCAC	TCGAAGAAGG	GAGTTCGACT	TTGGACGTTT		
K E G	S N I	C L T	R T	G W Y	C D N	A G S	V S	F F	P Q A	E T C	K>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>EcoRV											
1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	1170	1180	1190	1200		
GTCCAGAGCA	ACAGAGTGT	CTGTGACACC	ATGAACCTCC	TGACCCCTGCC	CTCCGAGGTG	AACCTGTGCA	ACGTGGATAT	CTTCAACCCC	AAGTATGACT		
CAGGTCTCGT	TGTCTCACAA	GACACTGTGG	TACTTGAGGG	ACTGGGACGG	GAGGCTCCAC	TTGGACACGT	TGCACCTATA	GAGTTGGGG	TTCATACTGA		
V Q S	N R V	F C D	T M N	S L T	P S E	V N L	C N V	D I F	N P K	Y D>	
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>XhoI											
1210	1220	1230	1240	1250	1260	1270	1280	1290	1300		
GCAAGATCAT	GACCTCCAAG	ACCGATGTCT	CGAGCTCCGT	GATCACCAGC	CTGGGGGCCA	TCGTGTCCTG	CTATGGCAAG	ACCAAGTGCA	CCGCCAGCAA		
CGTTCTAGTA	CTGGAGGTTC	TGGCTACAGA	GCTCGAGGCA	CTAGTGGTCTG	GACCCGCGGT	AGCACAGGAC	GATACCGTTC	TGTTTCACGT	GGCGGTCTGTT		
C K I	M T S	K T D	V S S	S V I	T S L	G A I	V S C	Y G K	T K C	T A S	N>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>BstBI											
1310	1320	1330	1340	1350	1360	1370	1380	1390	1400		
CAAGAACCGG	GGCATCATCA	AGACCTTCAG	CAATGGGTGC	GACTACGTTT	CGAACAAAGG	CGTGGACACT	GTGTCCGTGG	GCAACACCCCT	GTACTACGTG		
GTTCCTGGCC	CCGTAGTAGT	TCTGGAAGTC	GTTACCCACG	CTGATGCAAA	GCTTGTTCCT	GCACCTGTGA	CACAGGCACC	CGTTGTGGGA	CATGATGCAC		
K N R	G I I	K T F	S N G	C D Y	V S N	K G V	D T V	S V G	N T L	Y Y V>	
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>											
1410	1420	1430	1440	1450	1460	1470	1480	1490	1500		
AACAAGCAAG	AGGGCAAGAG	CCTGTATGTG	AAGGGCGAGC	CCATCATCAA	CTTCTACGAC	CCCCTGGTGT	TCCCCTCCGA	CGAATTCGAC	GCCTCCATTA		
TTGTTCTGTT	TCCCGTTCTC	GGACATACAC	TTCCCGCTCG	GGTAGTAGTT	GAAGATGCTG	GGGGACCA	AGGGGAGGCT	GCTTAAGCTG	CGGAGGTAAT		
N K Q	E G K	S L Y	V K G	E P I	I N F	Y D P	L V F	P S D	E F D	A S I>	
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>											

Figure 3a(iii)

Figure 3a(iv)

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(i)
(ii)
(iii)
(iv)

Figure 3b

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Sequence of the PstI to BamHI fragment as found in the plasmid p.CICO.F.opt (see fig 4b)

```

>PstI
|
| 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
CTGCAGTCAC CGTCCTTGAC ACCATGGAGC TGCTGATCCT GAAGGCCAAC GCCATCACCA CCATCCTGAC CGCGGTGACC TTCTGCTTCG CCTCTGGCCA
GACGTCAGTG GCAGGAACTG TGGTACCTCG ACGACTAGGA CTTCCGGTTG CCGTAGTGGT GGTAGGACTG GCGCCACTGG AAGACGAAGC GGAGACCGGT
M E L L I L K A N A I T T I L T A V T F C F A S G Q>

>BstEII
|
| 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200
GAACATCACT GAGGAGTTCT ACCAGAGCAC TTGTTCCGCT GTGAGCAAGG GCTACCTGAG CGCCCTGAGG ACCGGTTGGT ACACCAGCGT GATCACCATC
CTTGTAAGTA CTCCTCAAGA TGGTCTCGTG AACAAAGCGA CACTCGTTCC CGATGGACTC GCGGGACTCC TGGCCAAACCA TGTGGTCGCA CTAGTGGTAG
N I T E E F Y Q S T C S A V S K G Y L S A L R T G W Y T S V I T I>

>AgeI
|
| 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300
GAGCTGAGCA ACATCAAGAA GAACAAGTGC AACGGCACCG ACGCCAAGGT GAAGCTGATC AAGCAAGAGC TGGACAAGTA CAAGAACGCC GTGACCGGAGC
CTCGACTCGT TGTAGTTCTT CTGTTCACG TTGCCGTGGC TGCGGTCCCA CTTGACTAG TTCGTTCTCG ACCTGTTTCAT GTTCTTGCGG CACTGGGCTCG
E L S N I K K N K C N G T D A K V K L I K Q E L D K Y K N A V T E>

>BstXI
|
| 310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400
TGCAACTGCT GATGCAGTCG ACTCAAGCCA CCAACAACAG AGCCCGCAGA GAGCTGCCCC GCTTCATGAA CTACACCCCTG AACAAACGCCA AGAAGACCAA
ACGTTGACGA CTACGTCAGC TGAGTTCGGT GGTGTTGTC TCGGGCGTCT CTCGACGGGG CGAAGTACTT GATGTGGGAC TTGTTGCGGT TCTTCTGGTT
L Q L L M Q S T Q A T N N R A R R E L P R F M N Y T L N N A K K T N>

>BstXI
|
| 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500
CGTGACCCCTG TCCAAGAAGA GGAAGCGCCG CTTCTCGGGC TTCTGCTGGG GCGTGGGCTC CGCCATTGCC AGTGGCGTGG CCGTGTCCAA GGTGCTGCAC
GCACTGGGAC AGGTTCTTCT CTTTCGCGGC GAAGGACCCG AAGGACGACC CGCA*CCGAG GCGGTAACGG TCACCCGCCACC GGCACAGGTT CCACGACGTTG
V T L S K K R K R R F L G F L L G V G S A I A S G V A V S K V L H>

```

Figure 3b(i)

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510	520	530	540	550	560	570	580	590	600
CTGGAGGCG	AGGTGAACAA	GATCAAGAGT	GCCCTGCTGT	CCACTAACAA	GGCCGTGGTG	AGCCTGAGCA	ACGGCGTGAG	TGTGCTGACT	AGCAAGGTGC
GACCTCCCGC	TCCACTTGT	CTAGTTCTCA	CGGGACGACA	GGTGATTGTT	CCGGCACCCAC	TCGGACTCGT	TGCCGCACATC	ACAGGACTGA	TGTTCCACG
L E G	E V N K	I K S	A L L S	A L L S	T N K	A V V	S L S	N G V	S V L T S K V>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>MfeI									
610	620	630	640	650	660	670	680	690	700
TGGACCTGAA	GAACTACATC	GACAAGCAAT	TGCTGCCCAT	CGTGAACAAG	CAGTCTCTGA	GCATCTCCAA	CATCGAGACT	GTGATCGAGT	TCCAGCAGAA
ACCTGGACTT	CTTGATGTAG	CTGTTCTGTTA	ACGACGGGTA	GCACCTTGTT	GTCAGGACAT	CGTAGAGGTT	GTAGCTCTGA	CACCTAGCTCA	AGGTGCTCTT
L D L K	N Y I	D K Q	L L P I	V N K	Q S C	S I S	N I E	T V I	E F Q Q K>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>SmaI									
710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790	800
GAACAACCGC	CTGCTGGAAA	TCACCCGGGA	GTTCAAGTGT	AACGCTGGCG	TGACCACTCC	TGCTCTCCACC	TACATGCTGA	CCAACAGCGA	GCTGCTGAGC
CTTGTGGCG	GACGACCTTT	AGTGGGCCCT	CAAGTCACAC	TTGCGACCGC	ACTGGTGAGG	ACAGAGGTGG	ATGTACGACT	GTTGTGCGT	CGACGACTCG
N N R	L L E	I T R	E F S	V N A	G V T	T P V	S T Y	M L T	N S E L L S>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>HindIII									
810	820	830	840	850	860	870	880	890	900
CTGATCAACG	ACATGCCCAT	CACCAACGAC	CAGAAGAAGC	TTATGTCCAA	CAACGTGCAG	ATCGTGAGGC	AGCAGAGCTA	CTCCATCATG	AGCATCATCA
GACTAGTTGC	TGTACGGGTA	GTGTTGCTG	GTCTTCTTCG	AATACAGGTT	GTTGCACGTC	TAGCACTCCG	TCGTCTCGAT	GAGGTAGTAC	TCGTAGTAGT
L I N	D M P	I T N	D Q K	K L M	S N N	V Q I	V R Q	Q S Y	S I M S I I>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>ClaI									
910	920	930	940	950	960	970	980	990	1000
AGGAGGAGGT	GCTGGCCCTAT	GTGTTGCAGC	TGCCCTCTGA	CGGGCTCATC	GATACCCCTT	GCTGGAAGCT	GCACACCAGC	CCCCTGTGCA	CCACCAACAC
TCCTCCTCCA	CGACCGGATA	CACCACGTCG	ACGGGGACAT	GCCGCACTAG	CTATGGGAA	CGACCTTCGA	CGTGTGGTCG	GGGGACACGT	GGTGGTTGTG
K E V	L A Y	V V Q	L P L	Y G V	I D T	P C W	K L H	T S P	L C T T N T>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a

Figure 3b(ii)



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>RsrII																
1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100							
CAAGGAGGC	AGCAACATCT	GCCTGACCG	GACCGACCG	GGCTGGTACT	GTGACAACGC	TGGCTCGGTG	AGCTTCTTCC	CTCAAGCTGA	AACCTGCAAG							
GTTCCTCCG	TCGTTGTAGA	CGGACTGGG	CTGGCTGGG	CCGACCATGA	CACCTGTTGG	ACCGAGCCAC	TCAAGAAGG	GAGTTCGACT	TTGGACGTT							
K E G	S N I	C L T	R T	D R	T D	R G	W Y	C D	N A	G S	V S	F F	P Q	A E	T C	K>
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>EcoRV																
1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	1170	1180	1190	1200							
GTCCAGAGCA	ACAGAGTGTT	CTGTGACACC	ATGAACCTCC	TGACCCCTGCC	CTCCGAGGTG	AACCTGTGCA	ACGTGGATAT	CTTCAACCCC	AAGTATGACT							
CAGGTCTCGT	TGTCACACAA	GACACTGTGG	TACTTGAGGG	ACTGGGACGG	GAGGCTCCAC	TTGGACACGT	TGCACCTATA	GAAGTTGGGG	TTCATACTGA							
V Q S	N R V	F C D	T M N	S L	T L	P S	E V	N L	C N	V D	I F	N P	K Y	D>		
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>XhoI																
1210	1220	1230	1240	1250	1260	1270	1280	1290	1300							
GCAAGATCAT	GACCTCCAAG	ACCGATGTCT	CGAGCTCCGT	GATCACCAGC	CTGGGCGCCA	TCGTGTCTCTG	CTATGGCAAG	ACCAAGTGCA	CCGCCAGCAA							
CGTTCTAGTA	CTGGAGGTTT	TGGCTACAGA	GCTCGAGGCA	CTAGTGGTCG	GACCCGCGGT	AGCACAGGAC	GATACCGTTC	TGTTTCACGT	GGCGTCTGTT							
C K I	M T S	K T D	V S S	S V I	T S L	G A I	V S C	Y G K	T K C	T A S	N>					
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
>BstBI																
1310	1320	1330	1340	1350	1360	1370	1380	1390	1400							
CAAGAACCGG	GGCATCATCA	AGACCTTCAG	CAATGGGTGC	GACTACGTTT	CGAACCAAGG	CGTGGACACT	GTGTCCGTGG	GCAACACCCT	GTACTACGTG							
GTTCTTGGCC	CCGTAGTAGT	TCTGGAAGTC	GTTACCCACG	CTGATGCATA	GCTTGTTCCT	GCACCTGTGA	CACAGGCACC	CGTTGTGGGA	CATGATGCAC							
K N R	G I I	K T F	S N G	C D Y	V S N	K G V	D T V	S V G	N T L	Y Y V>						
a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a

Figure 3b(iii)

[illegible]

**>XbaI**      **>BamHI**

40-40702

1610

GTCTAGAGGA TCC

CAGATCTCCT AGG

Figure 3b(iv)

Assembly of F synthetic DNA fragments

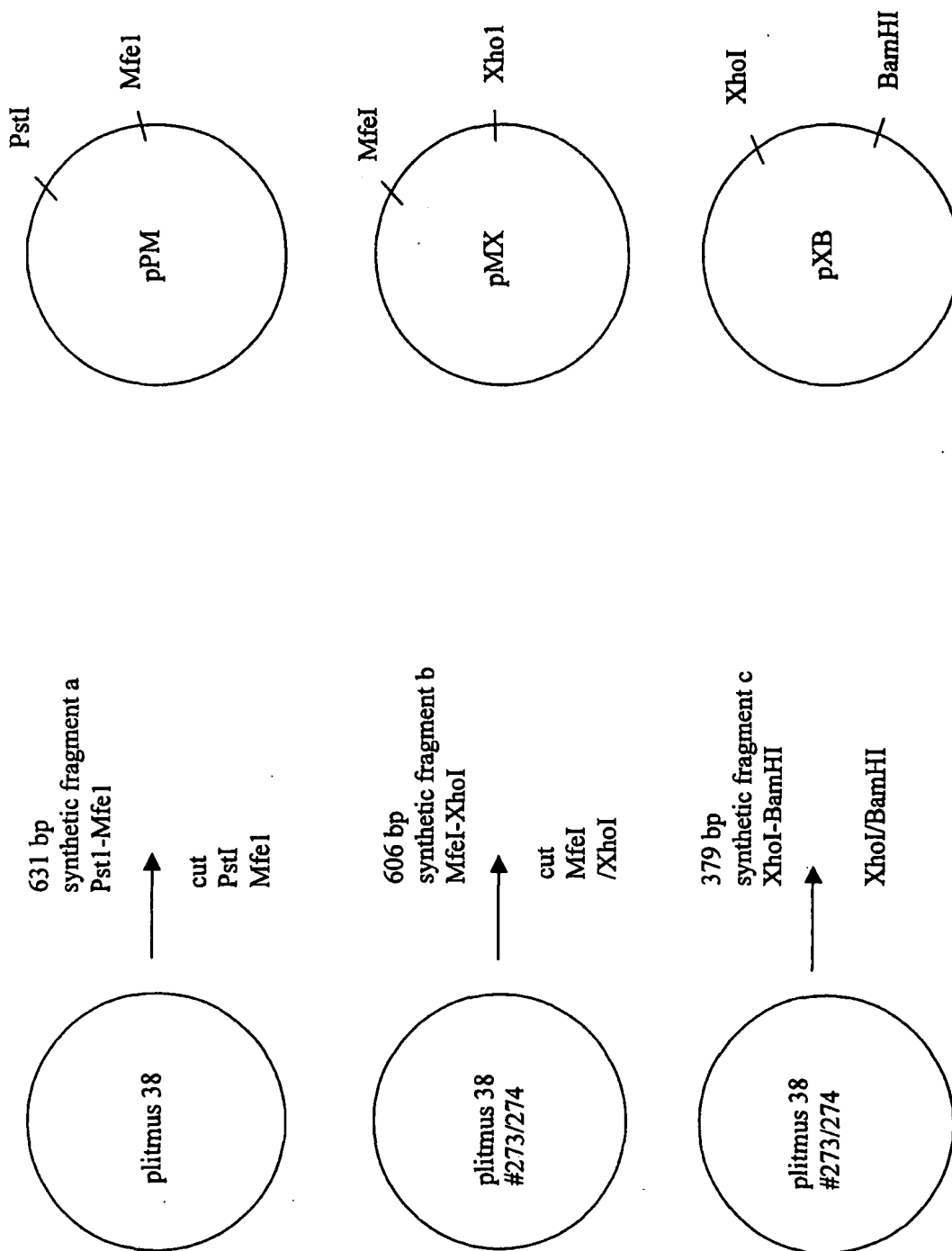


Figure 4a

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## Assembly of F in pClCO expression vector

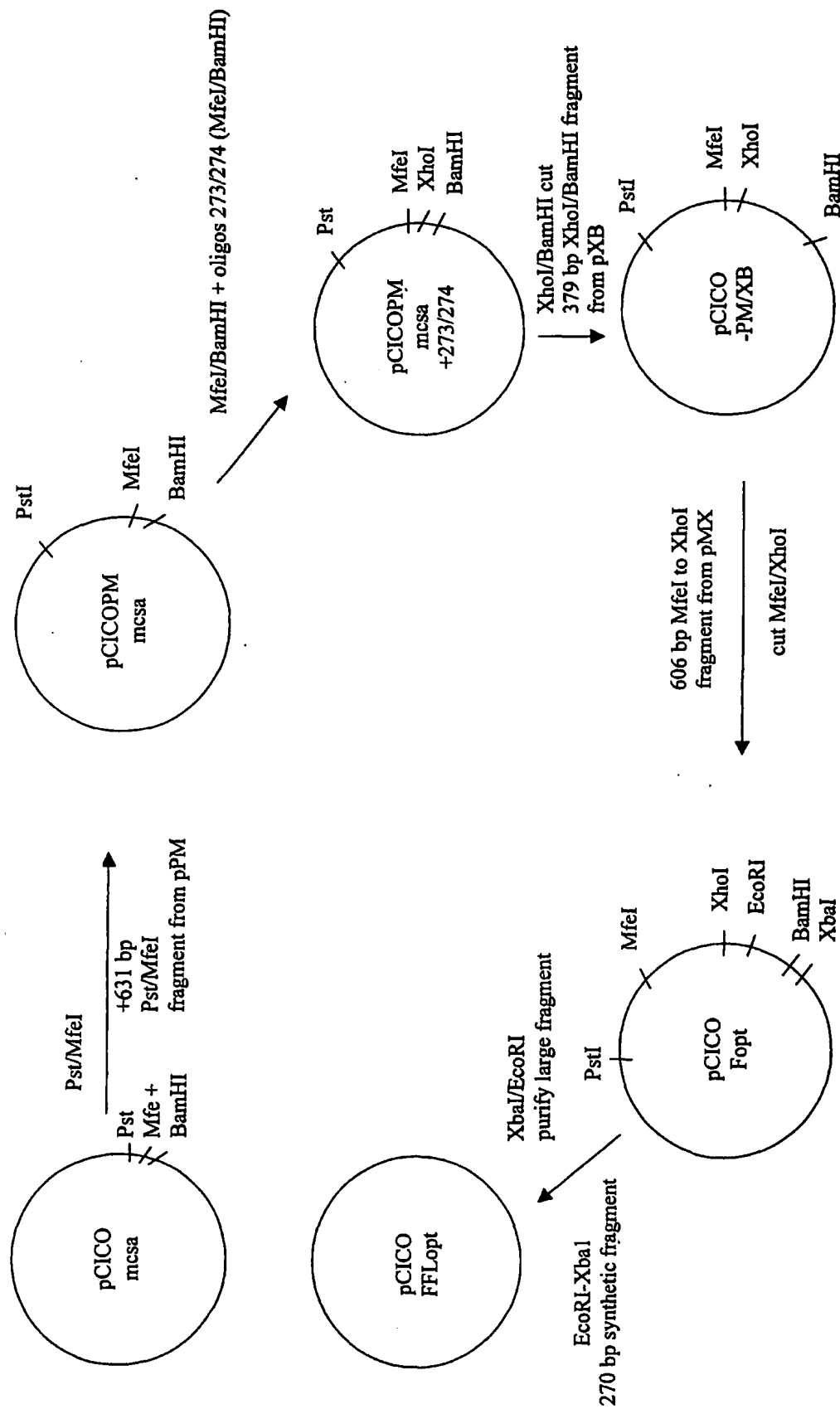
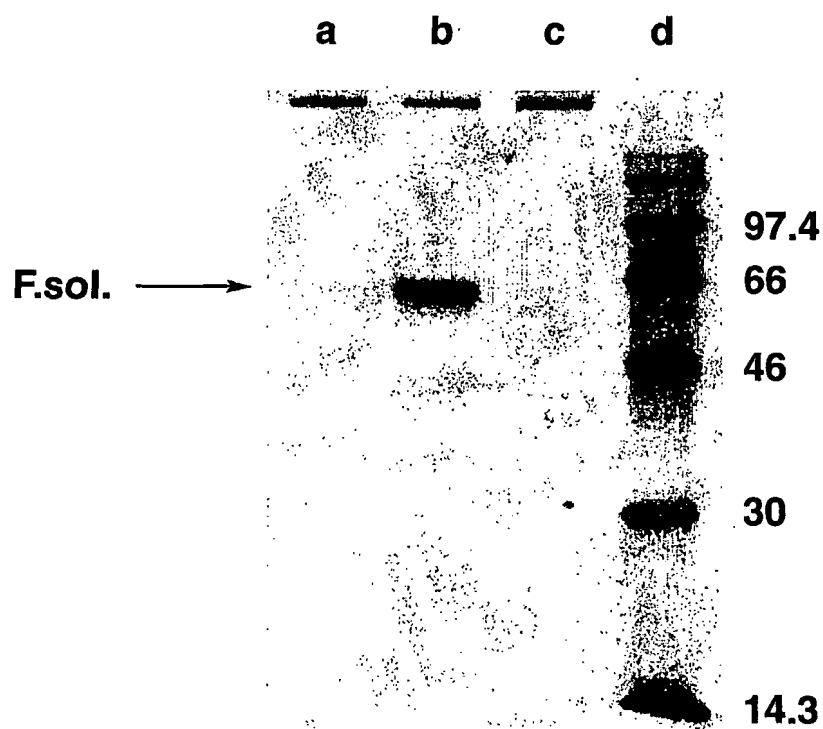


Figure 4b

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**Autoradiograph of immunoprecipitation of  
<sup>35</sup>-S labelled transfected cell supernatants**



**Figure 5**

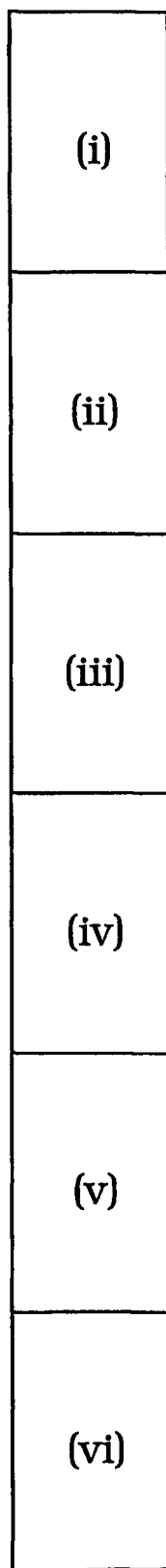


Figure 6  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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# ClustalW Formatted Alignments

	10	20	30
<i>F.viral</i>	A T G G A G T T G C T A A T C C T C A A A G C A A A T G C A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A T G G A G T T G C T A A T C C T C A A A G C A A A T G C A		
	40	50	60
<i>F.viral</i>	A T T A C C A C A A T C C T C A C T G C A G T C A C A T T T		
<i>F.nat</i>	A T T A C C A C A A T C C T C A C T G C A G T C A C A T T T		
	70	80	90
<i>F.viral</i>	T G T T T T G C T T C T G G T C A A A A C A T C A C T G A A		
<i>F.nat</i>	T G T T T T G C T T C T G G T C A A A A C A T C A C T G A A		
	100	110	120
<i>F.viral</i>	G A A T T T T A T C A A T C A A C A T G C A G T G C A G T T		
<i>F.nat</i>	G A A T T T T A T C A A T C A A C A T G C A G T G C A G T T		
	130	140	150
<i>F.viral</i>	A G C A A A G G C T A T C T T A G T G C T C T G A G A A C T		
<i>F.nat</i>	A G C A A A G G C T A T C T T A G T G C T C T G A G A A C T		
	160	170	180
<i>F.viral</i>	G G T T G G T A T A C C A G T G T T A T A A C T A T A G A A		
<i>F.nat</i>	G G T T G G T A T A C C A G T G T T A T A A C C A T A G A A		
	190	200	210
<i>F.viral</i>	T T A A G T A A T A T C A A G A A A A A T A A G T G T A A T		
<i>F.nat</i>	C T A A G T A A T A T C A A G A A A A A T A A G T G T A A T		
	220	230	240
<i>F.viral</i>	G G A A C A G A T G C T A A G G T A A A A T T G A T A A A A		
<i>F.nat</i>	G G A A C A G A T G C C A A G G T A A A A T T G A T A A A A		
	250	260	270
<i>F.viral</i>	C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
<i>F.nat</i>	C A A G A A T T A G A T A A A T A T A A A A A T G C T G T A		
	280	290	300
<i>F.viral</i>	A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A A A G C A C A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A C A G A A T T G C A G T T G C T C A T G C A A A G C A C A		

Figure 6(i)

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	310	320	330
<i>F.viral</i>	C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
<i>F.nat</i>	C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
	C A A G C A A C A A A C A A T C G A G C C A G A A G A G A A		
	340	350	360
<i>F.viral</i>	C T A C C A A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
<i>F.nat</i>	C T A C C A A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
	C T A C C A A G G T T T A T G A A T T A T A C A C T C A A C		
	370	380	390
<i>F.viral</i>	A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A T T A A G C		
<i>F.nat</i>	A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A T T A A G C		
	A A T G C C A A A A A A A C C A A T G T A A C A T T A A G C		
	400	410	420
<i>F.viral</i>	A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
<i>F.nat</i>	A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
	A A G A A A A G G A A A A G A A G A T T T C T T G G T T T T		
	430	440	450
<i>F.viral</i>	T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C T G C A A T C G C C A G T		
<i>F.nat</i>	T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C T G C A A T C G C C A G T		
	T T G T T A G G T G T T G G A T C T G C A A T C G C C A G T		
	460	470	480
<i>F.viral</i>	G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
<i>F.nat</i>	G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
	G G C G T T G C T G T A T C T A A G G T C C T G C A C C T A		
	490	500	510
<i>F.viral</i>	G A A G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
<i>F.nat</i>	G A A G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
	G A A G G G G A A G T G A A C A A G A T C A A A A G T G C T		
	520	530	540
<i>F.viral</i>	C T A C T A T C C A C A A A C A A G G C T G T A G T C A G C		
<i>F.nat</i>	C T A C T A T C C A C A A A C A A G G C T G T A G T C A G C		
	C T A C T A T C C A C A A A C A A G G C T G T A G T C A G C		
	550	560	570
<i>F.viral</i>	T T A T C A A A T G G A G T T A G T G T C T T A A C C A G C		
<i>F.nat</i>	T T A T C A A A T G G A G T T A G T G T C T T A A C C A G C		
	T T A T C A A A T G G A G T T A G T G T C T T A A C C A G C		
	580	590	600
<i>F.viral</i>	A A A G T G T T A G A C C T C A A A A A C T A T A T A G A T		
<i>F.nat</i>	A A A G T G T T A G A C C T C A A A A A C T A T A T A G A T		
	A A A G T G T T A G A C C T C A A A A A C T A T A T A G A T		
	610	620	630
<i>F.viral</i>	A A A C A A T T G T T A C C T A T T G T G A A C A A G C A A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A A A C A A T T G T T A C C T A T T G T G A A C A A G C A A		
	A A A C A A T T G T T A C C T A T T G T G A A C A A G C A A		

Figure 6(ii)

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	640	650	660
<i>F.viral</i>	A G C T G C A G C A T A T C A A A T A T A G A A A C T G T G		
<i>F.nat</i>	A G C T G C A G C A T A T C A A A T A T A G A A A C T G T G		
	A G C T G C A G C A T A T C A A A T A T A G A A A C T G T G		
	670	680	690
<i>F.viral</i>	A T A G A G T T C C A A C A A A A G A A C A A C A G A C T A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A T A G A G T T C C A A C A A A A G A A C A A C A G A C T A		
	A T A G A G T T C C A A C A A A A G A A C A A C A G A C T A		
	700	710	720
<i>F.viral</i>	C T A G A G A T T A C C A G G G A A T T T A G T G T T A A T		
<i>F.nat</i>	C T A G A G A T T A C C A G G G A A T T T A G T G T T A A T		
	C T A G A G A T T A C C A G G G A A T T T A G T G T T A A T		
	730	740	750
<i>F.viral</i>	G C A G G T G T A A C T A C A C C T G T A A G C A C T T A C		
<i>F.nat</i>	G C A G G T G T A A C T A C A C C T G T A A G C A C T T A C		
	G C A G G T G T A A C T A C A C C T G T A A G C A C T T A C		
	760	770	780
<i>F.viral</i>	A T G T T A A C T A A T A G T G A A T T A T T G T C A T T A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A T G T T A A C T A A T A G T G A A T T A T T G T C A T T A		
	A T G T T A A C T A A T A G T G A A T T A T T G T C A T T A		
	790	800	810
<i>F.viral</i>	A T C A A T G A T A T G C C T A T A A C A A A T G A T C A G		
<i>F.nat</i>	A T C A A T G A T A T G C C T A T A A C A A A T G A T C A G		
	A T C A A T G A T A T G C C T A T A A C A A A T G A T C A G		
	820	830	840
<i>F.viral</i>	A A A A A G T T A A T G T C C A A C A A T G T T C A A A T A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A A A A A G T T A A T G T C C A A C A A T G T T C A A A T A		
	A A A A A G T T A A T G T C C A A C A A T G T T C A A A T A		
	850	860	870
<i>F.viral</i>	G T T A G A C A G C A A A G T T A C T C T A T C A T G T C C		
<i>F.nat</i>	G T T A G A C A G C A A A G T T A C T C T A T C A T G T C C		
	G T T A G A C A G C A A A G T T A C T C T A T C A T G T C C		
	880	890	900
<i>F.viral</i>	A T A A T A A A A G A G G A A G T C T T A G C A T A T G T A		
<i>F.nat</i>	A T A A T A A A A G A G G A A G T C T T A G C A T A T G T A		
	A T A A T A A A A G A G G A A G T C T T A G C A T A T G T A		
	910	920	930
<i>F.viral</i>	G T A C A A T T A C C A C T A T A T G G T G T T A T A G A T		
<i>F.nat</i>	G T A C A A T T A C C A C T A T A T G G T G T T A T A G A T		
	G T A C A A T T A C C A C T A T A T G G T G T T A T A G A T		
	940	950	960
<i>F.viral</i>	A C A C C C T G T T G G A A A C T A C A C A C A T C C C C T		
<i>F.nat</i>	A C A C C C T G T T G G A A A C T A C A C A C A T C C C C T		
	A C A C C C T G T T G G A A A C T A C A C A C A T C C C C T		

Figure 6(iii)

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	970	980	990
<i>F.viral</i>	CTATGTACAACCAACACAAAAGAAAGGGTCC		
<i>F.nat</i>	CTATGTACAACCAACACAAAAGAAAGGGTCC		
	CTATGTACAACCAACACAAAAGAAAGGGTCC		
	1000	1010	1020
<i>F.viral</i>	AACATCTGTTTAAACAAGAACTGACAGAGGA		
<i>F.nat</i>	AACATCTGTTTAAACAAGAACTGACAGAGGA		
	AACATCTGTTTAAACAAGAACTGACAGAGGA		
	1030	1040	1050
<i>F.viral</i>	TGGTACTGTGACAATGCAAGGATCAGTATCT		
<i>F.nat</i>	TGGTACTGTGACAATGCAAGGATCAGTATCT		
	TGGTACTGTGACAATGCAAGGATCAGTATCT		
	1060	1070	1080
<i>F.viral</i>	TTCTTCCCACAAGCTGAAACATGTAAAGTT		
<i>F.nat</i>	TTCTTCCCACAAGCTGAAACATGTAAAGTT		
	TTCTTCCCACAAGCTGAAACATGTAAAGTT		
	1090	1100	1110
<i>F.viral</i>	CAATCAAATCGAGTATTTTGTGACACAATG		
<i>F.nat</i>	CAATCAAATCGAGTATTTTGTGACACAATG		
	CAATCAAATCGAGTATTTTGTGACACAATG		
	1120	1130	1140
<i>F.viral</i>	AACAGTTTAAACATTACCAAGTGAAAGTAAAT		
<i>F.nat</i>	AACAGTTTAAACATTACCAAGTGAAAGTAAAT		
	AACAGTTTAAACATTACCAAGTGAAAGTAAAT		
	1150	1160	1170
<i>F.viral</i>	CTCTGCAATGTTGACATATTCAACCCCAA		
<i>F.nat</i>	CTCTGCAATGTTGACATATTCAACCCCAA		
	CTCTGCAATGTTGACATATTCAACCCCAA		
	1180	1190	1200
<i>F.viral</i>	TATGATTGTAAAATTATGACTTCAAAAACA		
<i>F.nat</i>	TATGATTGTAAAATTATGACTTCAAAAACA		
	TATGATTGTAAAATTATGACTTCAAAAACA		
	1210	1220	1230
<i>F.viral</i>	GATGTAAGCAGCTCCGTTATCACATCTCTA		
<i>F.nat</i>	GATGTAAGCAGCTCCGTTATCACATCTCTA		
	GATGTAAGCAGCTCCGTTATCACATCTCTA		
	1240	1250	1260
<i>F.viral</i>	GGAGCCATTGTGTGTCATGCTATGGCAAAACT		
<i>F.nat</i>	GGAGCCATTGTGTGTCATGCTATGGCAAAACT		
	GGAGCCATTGTGTGTCATGCTATGGCAAAACT		
	1270	1280	1290
<i>F.viral</i>	AAATGTACAGCATCCAATAAAAAATCGTGGA		
<i>F.nat</i>	AAATGTACAGCATCCAATAAAAAATCGTGGA		
	AAATGTACAGCATCCAATAAAAAATCGTGGA		

Figure 6(iv)

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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		1300	1310	1320
<i>F.viral</i>		A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
<i>F.nat</i>		A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
		A T C A T A A A G A C A T T T T T C T A A C G G G T G C G A T		
		1330	1340	1350
<i>F.viral</i>		T A T G T A T C A A A T A A A G G G G T G G A C A C T G T G		
<i>F.nat</i>		T A T G T A T C A A A T A A A G G G G T G G A C A C T G T G		
		T A T G T A T C A A A T A A A G G G G T G G A C A C T G T G		
		1360	1370	1380
<i>F.viral</i>		T C T G T A G G T A A C A C A T T A T A T T A T G T A A A T		
<i>F.nat</i>		T C T G T A G G T A A C A C A T T A T A T T A T G T A A A T		
		T C T G T A G G T A A C A C A T T A T A T T A T G T A A A T		
		1390	1400	1410
<i>F.viral</i>		A A G C A A G A A G G T A A A A G T C T C T A T G T A A A A		
<i>F.nat</i>		A A G C A A G A A G G T A A A A G T C T C T A T G T A A A A		
		A A G C A A G A A G G T A A A A G T C T C T A T G T A A A A		
		1420	1430	1440
<i>F.viral</i>		G G T G A A C C A A T A A T A A A T T T T C T A T G A C C C A		
<i>F.nat</i>		G G T G A A C C A A T A A T A A A T T T T C T A T G A C C C A		
		G G T G A A C C A A T A A T A A A T T T T C T A T G A C C C A		
		1450	1460	1470
<i>F.viral</i>		T T A G T A T T C C C C T G T G A T G A A T T T T G A T G C A		
<i>F.nat</i>		T T A G T A T T C C C C T G T G A T G A A T T T T G A T G C A		
		T T A G T A T T C C C C T G T G A T G A A T T T T G A T G C A		
		1480	1490	1500
<i>F.viral</i>		T C A A T A T C T C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T T A A C		
<i>F.nat</i>		T C A A T A T C T C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T T A A C		
		T C A A T A T C T C A A G T C A A C G A G A A G A T T A A C		
		1510	1520	1530
<i>F.viral</i>		C A G A G C C T A G C A T T T T A T T C G T A A A T C C G A T		
<i>F.nat</i>		C A G A G C C T A G C A T T T T A T T C G T A A A T C C G A T		
		C A G A G C C T A G C A T T T T A T T C G T A A A T C C G A T		
		1540	1550	1560
<i>F.viral</i>		G A A T T A T T A C A T A A T G T A A A T G C T G G T A A A		
<i>F.nat</i>		G A A T T A T T A C A T A A T G T A A A T G C T G G T A A A		
		G A A T T A T T A C A T A A T G T A A A T G C T G G T A A A		
		1570	1580	1590
<i>F.viral</i>		T C C A C C A C A A A T A T C A T G A T A A C T A C T A T A		
<i>F.nat</i>		T C C A C C A C A A A T A T C A T G A T A A C T A C T A T A		
		T C C A C C A C A A A T A T C A T G A T A A C T A C T A T A		
		1600	1610	1620
<i>F.viral</i>		A T T A T A G T G A T T A T A G T A A T A T T G T T A T C A		
<i>F.nat</i>		A T T A T A G T G A T T A T A G T A A T A T T G T T A T C A		
		A T T A T A G T G A T T A T A G T A A T A T T G T T A T C A		

Figure 6(v)

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		1630		1640		1650	
<i>F.viral</i>		TTAATTGCTGTTGGACTGCTCTTATACTGT					
<i>F.nat</i>		TTAATTGCTGTTGGACTGCTCTTATACTGT					
		1660		1670		1680	
<i>F.viral</i>		AAGGCCAGAAAGCACACCAGTCACACTAAGC					
<i>F.nat</i>		AAGGCCAGAAAGCACACCAGTCACACTAAGC					
		1690		1700		1710	
<i>F.viral</i>		AAAGATCAACTGAGTGGTATAAATAATATT					
<i>F.nat</i>		AAAGATCAACTGAGTGGTATAAATAATATT					
		1720		1730		1740	
<i>F.viral</i>		GCATTTAGTAAC TAA					
<i>F.nat</i>		GCATTTAGTAAC TAA					
		GCATTTAGTAAC TAA					

Figure 6(vi)

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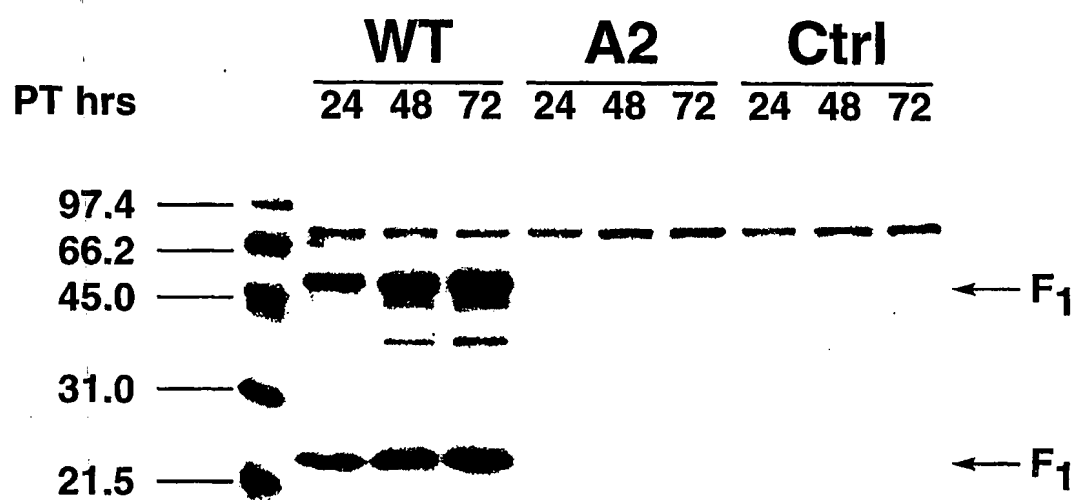


Figure 7  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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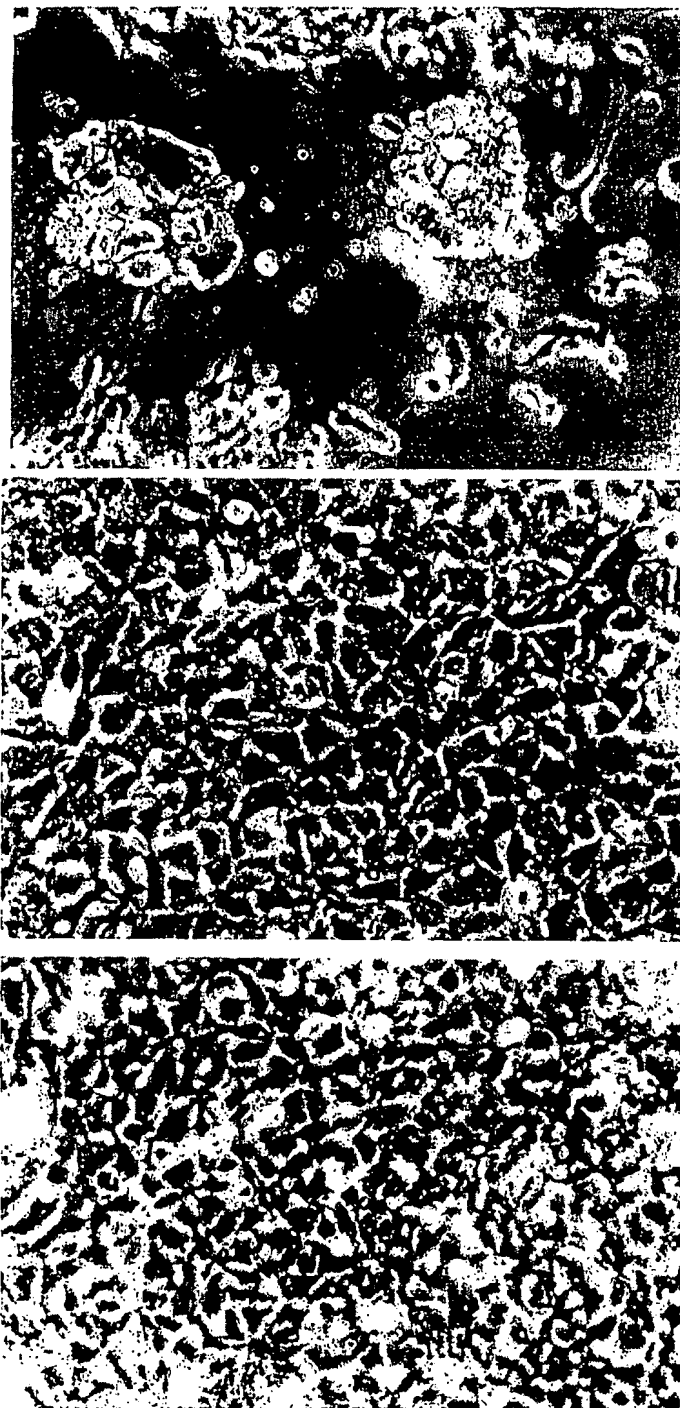


Figure 8  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

- 1 -

## SEQUENCE LISTING

&lt;110&gt; Biota Scientific Management Pty Ltd

&lt;120&gt; A method of expression and agents identified thereby

&lt;130&gt; 2479709/TDO

&lt;140&gt; International application

&lt;141&gt; 2001-11-22

&lt;150&gt; US 60/252767

&lt;151&gt; 2000-11-22

&lt;160&gt; 574

&lt;170&gt; PatentIn version 3.1

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytival virus

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- 3 -

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&lt;223&gt; Optimised Sequence

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35 40 45

Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile  
50 55 60

Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys  
65 70 75 80

Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu  
85 90 95

Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro  
100 105 110

Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr Asn Val Thr  
115 120 125

Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val  
130 135 140

Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu  
145 150 155 160

Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys

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165

170

175

Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val  
180 185 190

Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn  
195 200 205

Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile Glu Phe Gln  
210 215 220

Gln Lys Asn Asn Arg Leu Leu Glu Ile Thr Arg Glu Phe Ser Val Asn  
225 230 235 240

Ala Gly Val Thr Thr Pro Val Ser Thr Tyr Met Leu Thr Asn Ser Glu  
245 250 255

Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys  
260 265 270

Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile  
275 280 285

Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro  
290 295 300

Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro Cys Trp Lys Leu His Thr Ser Pro  
305 310 315 320

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Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg  
325 330 335

Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe  
340 345 350

Pro Gln Ala Glu Thr Cys Lys Val Gln Ser Asn Arg Val Phe Cys Asp  
355 360 365

Thr Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val  
370 375 380

Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr  
385 390 395 400

Asp Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys  
405 410 415

Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile  
420 425 430

Lys Thr Phe Ser Asn Gly Cys Asp Tyr Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val Asp  
435 440 445

Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly  
450 455 460

Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro

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465                                      470                                      475                                      480

Leu Val Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn  
                                    485                                      490                                      495

Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu  
                                    500                                      505                                      510

Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr  
                                    515                                      520                                      525

Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val  
                                    530                                      535                                      540

Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg Ser Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser  
545                                      550                                      555                                      560

Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile Ala Phe Ser Asn  
                                    565                                      570

<210> 8

<211> 524

<212> PRT

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 8

Met Glu Leu Leu Ile Leu Lys Ala Asn Ala Ile Thr Thr Ile Leu Thr  
1                                      5                                      10                                      15

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Ala Val Thr Phe Cys Phe Ala Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe  
20 25 30

Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu  
35 40 45

Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile  
50 55 60

Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys  
65 70 75 80

Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu  
85 90 95

Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro  
100 105 110

Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr Asn Val Thr  
115 120 125

Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val  
130 135 140

Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu  
145 150 155 160

Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys  
165 170 175

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Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val  
180 185 190

Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn  
195 200 205

Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile Glu Phe Gln  
210 215 220

Gln Lys Asn Asn Arg Leu Leu Glu Ile Thr Arg Glu Phe Ser Val Asn  
225 230 235 240

Ala Gly Val Thr Thr Pro Val Ser Thr Tyr Met Leu Thr Asn Ser Glu  
245 250 255

Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys  
260 265 270

Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile  
275 280 285

Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro  
290 295 300

Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro Cys Trp Lys Leu His Thr Ser Pro  
305 310 315 320

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Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg  
325 330 335

Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe  
340 345 350

Pro Gln Ala Glu Thr Cys Lys Val Gln Ser Asn Arg Val Phe Cys Asp  
355 360 365

Thr Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val  
370 375 380

Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr  
385 390 395 400

Asp Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys  
405 410 415

Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile  
420 425 430

Lys Thr Phe Ser Asn Gly Cys Asp Tyr Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val Asp  
435 440 445

Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly  
450 455 460

Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro  
465 470 475 480



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Leu Val Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn  
485 490 495

Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu  
500 505 510

Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn  
515 520

<210> 9  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 9

Cys Phe Ala Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 10  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 10

Phe Ala Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 11  
<211> 10

- 20 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 11

Ala Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 12

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 12

Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe Tyr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 13

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 13

Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe Tyr Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 14

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 14

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Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe Tyr Gln Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 15

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 15

Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe Tyr Gln Ser Thr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 16

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 16

Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 17

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 17

Thr Glu Glu Phe Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 18

- 22 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 18

Glu Glu Phe Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 19  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 19

Glu Phe Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val  
1 5 10

<210> 20  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 20

Phe Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 21  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 21

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Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 22

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 22

Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 23

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 23

Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 24

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 24

Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu  
1 5 10

- 24 -

<210> 25  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 25

Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 26  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 26

Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 27  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 27

Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 28  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 28

Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu Arg  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 29

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 29

Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu Arg Thr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 30

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 30

Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 31

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 31

Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp  
1 5 10

- 26 -

<210> 32  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 32

Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 33  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 33

Leu Ser Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 34  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 34

Ser Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 35  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus



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&lt;400&gt; 35

Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 36

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 36

Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 37

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 37

Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 38

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 38

Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile  
1 5 10

- 28 -

<210> 39  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 39

Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 40  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 40

Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 41  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 41

Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 42  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 42

Ser	Val	Ile	Thr	Ile	Glu	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ile
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 43

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 43

Ser	Val	Ile	Thr	Ile	Glu	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ile
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 44

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 44

Val	Ile	Thr	Ile	Glu	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ile	Lys
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 45

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 45

Ile	Thr	Ile	Glu	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ile	Lys	Lys
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

- 30 -

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 46

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 46

Thr Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile Lys Lys Asn

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 47

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 47

Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile Lys Lys Asn Lys

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 48

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 48

Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 49

&lt;211&gt; 10

- 31 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 49

Leu	Ser	Asn	Ile	Lys	Lys	Asn	Lys	Cys	Asn
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 50

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 50

Ser	Asn	Ile	Lys	Lys	Asn	Lys	Cys	Asn	Gly
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 51

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 51

Asn	Ile	Lys	Lys	Asn	Lys	Cys	Asn	Gly	Thr
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 52

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 52

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Ile Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 53

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 53

Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 54

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 54

Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 55

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 55

Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 56

- 33 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 56

Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 57  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 57

Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 58  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 58

Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 59  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 59

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Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 60  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 60

Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys Gln  
1 5 10

<210> 61  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 61

Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys Gln Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 62  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 62

Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys Gln Glu Leu  
1 5 10



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<210> 63  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 63

Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 64  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 64

Val Lys Leu Ile Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 65  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 65

Lys Leu Ile Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 66  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 66

Leu Ile Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 67

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 67

Ile Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 68

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 68

Lys Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 69

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 69

Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val  
1 5 10

- 37 -

<210> 70  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 70

Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 71  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 71

Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 72  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 72

Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 73  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 73

Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 74

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 74

Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 75

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 75

Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 76

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 76

Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Met  
1 5 10

- 39 -

<210> 77  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 77

Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Met Gln  
1 5 10

<210> 78  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 78

Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Met Gln Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 79  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 79

Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Met Gln Ser Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 80  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 80

Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Met Gln Ser Thr Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 81

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 81

Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Met Gln Ser Thr Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 82

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 82

Gln Leu Leu Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 83

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 83

Leu Leu Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn

- 41 -

1                      5                      10

<210> 84  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 84

Leu Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn  
1                      5                      10

<210> 85  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 85

Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn Arg  
1                      5                      10

<210> 86  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 86

Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn Arg Ala  
1                      5                      10

<210> 87  
<211> 10

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&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 87

Ser	Thr	Gln	Ala	Thr	Asn	Asn	Arg	Ala	Arg
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 88

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 88

Thr	Gln	Ala	Thr	Asn	Asn	Arg	Ala	Arg	Arg
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 89

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 89

Gln	Ala	Thr	Asn	Asn	Arg	Ala	Arg	Arg	Glu
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 90

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 90



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Ala Thr Asn Asn Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 91  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 91

Thr Asn Asn Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 92  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 92

Asn Asn Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro Arg  
1 5 10

<210> 93  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 93

Asn Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro Arg Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 94

- 44 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 94

Arg Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro Arg Phe Met  
1 5 10

<210> 95  
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<400> 95

Ala Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro Arg Phe Met Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 96  
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<400> 96

Arg Arg Glu Leu Pro Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 97  
<211> 10  
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<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 97

- 45 -

Arg Glu Leu Pro Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 98  
<211> 10  
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<400> 98

Glu Leu Pro Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 99  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 99

Leu Pro Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 100  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 100

Pro Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn  
1 5 10

- 46 -

<210> 101  
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<400> 101

Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 102  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 102

Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 103  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 103

Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 104  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

- 47 -

&lt;400&gt; 104

Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 105

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 105

Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 106

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 106

Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr Asn Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 107

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 107

Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr Asn Val Thr  
1 5 10

- 48 -

<210> 108  
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<400> 108

Asn	Asn	Ala	Lys	Lys	Thr	Asn	Val	Thr	Leu
1				5					10

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<400> 109

Asn	Ala	Lys	Lys	Thr	Asn	Val	Thr	Leu	Ser
1				5					10

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<211> 10  
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<400> 110

Ala	Lys	Lys	Thr	Asn	Val	Thr	Leu	Ser	Lys
1				5					10

<210> 111  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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- 49 -

&lt;400&gt; 111

Lys Lys Thr Asn Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 112

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 112

Lys Thr Asn Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 113

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 113

Thr Asn Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 114

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 114

Asn Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg  
1 5 10

- 50 -

<210> 115  
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<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 115

Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg  
1 5 10

<210> 116  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 116

Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 117  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 117

Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 118  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT



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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 118

Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 119

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 119

Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 120

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 120

Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 121

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 121

Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu

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1                      5                      10

<210> 122  
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<400> 122

Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly  
1                      5                      10

<210> 123  
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<212> PRT  
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<400> 123

Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val  
1                      5                      10

<210> 124  
<211> 10  
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<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 124

Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val Gly  
1                      5                      10

<210> 125  
<211> 10

- 53 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 125

Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val Gly Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 126

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 126

Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val Gly Ser Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 127

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 127

Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val Gly Ser Ala Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 128

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 128

- 54 -

Phe Leu Leu Gly Val Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 129

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 129

Leu Leu Gly Val Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 130

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 130

Leu Gly Val Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 131

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 131

Gly Val Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 132

- 55 -

<211> 10  
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<400> 132

Val Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 133  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 133

Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val  
1 5 10

<210> 134  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 134

Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 135  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 135

- 56 -

Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 136

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 136

Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 137

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 137

Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 138

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 138

Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His  
1 5 10

- 57 -

<210> 139  
<211> 10  
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<400> 139

Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 140  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 140

Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 141  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 141

Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 142  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 142

Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu Glu Gly Glu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 143

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 143

Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu Glu Gly Glu Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 144

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 144

Lys Val Leu His Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 145

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 145

Val Leu His Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys  
1 5 10



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<210> 146  
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<400> 146

Leu His Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 147  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 147

His Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 148  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 148

Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 149  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 149

Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 150

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 150

Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 151

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 151

Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 152

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 152

Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser  
1 5 10

- 61 -

<210> 153  
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<400> 153

Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 154  
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<400> 154

Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 155  
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<400> 155

Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 156  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 156

Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 157

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 157

Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys Ala Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 158

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 158

Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys Ala Val Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 159

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 159

Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys Ala Val Val Ser

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1                      5                      10

<210> 160  
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<400> 160

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1                      5                      10

<210> 161  
<211> 10  
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<400> 161

Ser Thr Asn Lys Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser  
1                      5                      10

<210> 162  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 162

Thr Asn Lys Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn  
1                      5                      10

<210> 163  
<211> 10

- 64 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 163

Asn Lys Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 164

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 164

Lys Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 165

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 165

Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 166

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 166

- 65 -

Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val  
1 5 10

<210> 167  
<211> 10  
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<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 167

Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 168  
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<212> PRT  
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<400> 168

Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 169  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 169

Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 170

- 66 -

<211> 10  
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<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 170

Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 171  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 171

Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val  
1 5 10

<210> 172  
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<400> 172

Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 173  
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<400> 173



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Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val Leu Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 174  
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<400> 174

Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val Leu Asp Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 175  
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<212> PRT  
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<400> 175

Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val Leu Asp Leu Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 176  
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<212> PRT  
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<400> 176

Leu Thr Ser Lys Val Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn  
1 5 10

- 68 -

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<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus  
  
<400> 177

Thr Ser Lys Val Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 178  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus  
  
<400> 178

Ser Lys Val Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 179  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus  
  
<400> 179

Lys Val Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 180  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 180

Val Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 181

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 181

Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 182

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 182

Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 183

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 183

Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu  
1 5 10

- 70 -

<210> 184  
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<212> PRT  
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<400> 184

Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 185  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 185

Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 186  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 186

Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val  
1 5 10

<210> 187  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 187

Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 188

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 188

Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 189

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 189

Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn Lys Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 190

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 190

Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn Lys Gln Ser  
1 5 10

- 72 -

<210> 191  
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<400> 191

Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys  
1 5 10

<210> 192  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 192

Leu Pro Ile Val Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 193  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 193

Pro Ile Val Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 194  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

- 73 -

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 194

Ile Val Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 195

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 195

Val Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 196

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 196

Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 197

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 197

Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu

- 74 -

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 198

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 198

Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 199

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 199

Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 200

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 200

Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 201

&lt;211&gt; 10



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&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 201

Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile Glu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 202

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 202

Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile Glu Phe  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 203

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 203

Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile Glu Phe Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 204

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 204

## WO0242326

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Method of expression and agents identified thereby

Abstract:

The present invention relates generally to a method for the in vitro or in vivo production, by a eukaryotic host cell, of a protein from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus and, more particularly, to a method for the in vitro or in vivo production by a eukaryotic host cell of a protein from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae and agents identified thereby. Still more particularly, said protein is the F, N, P or SH protein, the encoding nucleic acid molecule of which has been optimised for expression in a eukaryotic host cell. In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for modulating the functional activity of an F protein. More particularly, said modulation is predicated on modulation of the functioning of a novel intrasequence cleavage event. In still another aspect, the protein expression product produced in accordance with the optimised expression method of the present invention and the method of modulating F protein functional activity are useful in a range of applications including, but not limited to, the identification, design and/or modification of agents capable of modulating functional activity of the subject protein. The proteins, encoding nucleic acid molecules and agents identified in accordance with the present invention are useful, inter alia, in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of viral infections.

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LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,  
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(54) Title: A METHOD OF EXPRESSION AND AGENTS IDENTIFIED THEREBY

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to a method for the *in vitro* or *in vivo* production, by a eukaryotic host cell, of a protein from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus and, more particularly, to a method for the *in vitro* or *in vivo* production by a eukaryotic host cell of a protein from a virus of the family Paramyxoviridae and agents identified thereby. Still more particularly, said protein is the F, N, P or SH protein, the encoding nucleic acid molecule of which has been optimised for expression in a eukaryotic host cell. In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for modulating the functional activity of an F protein. More particularly, said modulation is predicated on modulation of the functioning of a novel intrasequence cleavage event. In still another aspect, the protein expression product produced in accordance with the optimised expression method of the present invention and the method of modulating F protein functional activity are useful in a range of applications including, but not limited to, the identification, design and/or modification of agents capable of modulating functional activity of the subject protein. The proteins, encoding nucleic acid molecules and agents identified in accordance with the present invention are useful, *inter alia*, in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of viral infections.

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## CLAIMS:

1. A method of facilitating production of a protein or derivative thereof from a negative sense single stranded RNA virus, said method comprising expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.
4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.
5. The method according to any one of claims 1-4 wherein said protein directly or indirectly facilitates fusion of any one or more viral components with any one or more host cells components.
6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a F protein or derivative thereof.
7. The method according to claim 6 wherein said derivative is the F<sub>sol</sub> fragment.
8. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is an N protein or derivative thereof.
9. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a P protein or derivative thereof.

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10. The method according to claim 5 wherein said protein is a SH protein or derivative thereof.
11. The method according to any one of claims 1-10 wherein said eukaryotic host cell is a mammalian cell.
12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mammalian cell is a 293 cell.
13. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mammalian cell is a Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell.
14. The method according to any one of claims 11-13 wherein said optimisation is codon optimisation and/or nucleotide splice site deletion.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said codon optimisation comprises modification of at least one A and/or T comprising codon to express G and C, respectively and said splice site deletion comprises deletion of at least one RNA splice site.
16. The method according to claim 14 or 15 wherein said optimised protein encoding nucleic acid molecule further comprises one or more endonuclease restriction sites.
17. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>3 or derivative thereof.
18. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>5 or derivative thereof.

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19. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F<sub>SOL</sub> protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>4 or derivative thereof.
20. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised F<sub>SOL</sub> protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>6 or derivative thereof.
21. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised P protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>556 or derivative thereof.
22. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said optimised N protein encoding nucleic acid sequence correspond to the sequence defined by <400>559 or derivative thereof.
23. The method according to any one of claims 14-16 wherein said SH protein encoding nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the sequence defined by <400>562 or derivative thereof.
24. An optimised nucleic acid molecule or derivative thereof as described in any one of claims 1-23.
25. A protein molecule encoded by the optimised nucleic acid molecule of claim 24 or derivative, equivalent, analogue or mimetic thereof.
26. A method of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein, which protein in its non-fully functional form comprises an F2 portion linked, bound or otherwise associated with an F1 portion, which F2 portion comprises an intervening peptide sequence, said method comprising modulating cleavage of said intervening peptide sequence wherein excision of at least part of said intervening sequence from said non-fully



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functional form of said protein up-regulates F protein functional activity.

27. The method according to claim 26 wherein said method comprises expressing in a host cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein or derivative thereof, the nucleotide sequence of which nucleic acid molecule is optimised for expression by a eukaryotic cell.

28. The method according to claim 27 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.

29. The method according to claim 28 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.

30. The method according to any one of claims 26-29 wherein said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by the peptide sequence RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

31. The method according to any one of claims 26-29 wherein said F protein, in its non-fully functional form, comprises the structure:

$$X_1 X_2 X_3$$

wherein:

$X_1$  comprises the non-intervening peptide sequence region of the  $F_2$  portion;

$X_2$  comprises the intervening peptide sequence region of the  $F_2$  portion; and

$X_3$  comprises the  $F_1$  portion

32. The method according to claim 31 wherein said cleavage events occur at the cleavage sites defined by the peptide sequence RARR (<400>564) and KKRKRR (<400>563).

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33. The method according to any one of claims 26-32 wherein said regulation is down-regulation.

34. A method for detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a eukaryotic cell expressing an optimised nucleic acid molecule in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1-23 with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or functional activity.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said viral F protein is a non-fully functional form of said protein and wherein said agent modulates cleavage of the intervening peptide sequence.

36. A method for detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of a viral F protein or derivative thereof said method comprising contacting a host cell, which host cell expresses a nucleic acid molecule encoding the non-fully functional form of said viral F protein derivative thereof, with a putative modulatory agent and detecting an altered expression phenotype and/or altered functional activity wherein said agent modulates the site 2 cleavage event.

37. A method for analysing, designing and/or modifying an agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein or derivative thereof and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said protein, which protein is produced in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1-23, said method comprising contacting said F protein or derivative thereof with a putative agent and assessing the degree of interactive complementarity of said agent with said protein.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein said virus is a virus from the family Paramyxoviridae.

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39. The method according to claim 38 wherein said virus is of the sub-family Pneumovirinae.
40. The method according to claim 39 wherein said virus is respiratory syncytial virus.
41. An agent capable of interacting with a viral F protein and modulating at least one functional activity associated with said viral protein.
42. The agent according to claim 41 wherein said agent is an antagonist which interacts with a sequence selected from:

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ASGQNITEEF <400>11	SGQNITEEFY <400>12
GQNITEEFYQ <400>13	QNITEEFYQS <400>14
NITEEFYQST <400>15	ITEEFYQSTC <400>16
TEEFYQSTCS <400>17	EEFYQSTCSA <400>18
EFYQSTCSAV <400>19	FYQSTCSAVS <400>20
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ALRTGWYTSV <400>35	LRTGWYTSVI <400>36
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GWYTSVITIE <400>39	WYTSVITIEL <400>40
YTSVITIELS <400>41	TSVITIELSN <400>42
SVITIELSNI <400>43	VITIELSNIK <400>44
ITIELSNIKK <400>45	TIELSNIKKN <400>46
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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 239

Met Leu Thr Asn Ser Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 240

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 240

Leu Thr Asn Ser Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 241

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 241

Thr Asn Ser Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 242

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 242

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Asn Ser Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 243  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 243

Ser Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met  
1 5 10

<210> 244  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 244

Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 245  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 245

Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 246



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<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 246

Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 247  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 247

Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 248  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 248

Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 249  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 249

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Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 250

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 250

Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 251

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 251

Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 252

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 252

Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys Leu  
1 5 10

- 90 -

<210> 253  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 253

Pro	Ile	Thr	Asn	Asp	Gln	Lys	Lys	Leu	Met
1				5					10

<210> 254  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 254

Ile	Thr	Asn	Asp	Gln	Lys	Lys	Leu	Met	Ser
1				5					10

<210> 255  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 255

Thr	Asn	Asp	Gln	Lys	Lys	Leu	Met	Ser	Asn
1				5					10

<210> 256  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 256

Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys Leu Met Ser Asn Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 257

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 257

Asp Gln Lys Lys Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 258

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 258

Gln Lys Lys Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 259

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 259

Lys Lys Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile  
1 5 10

- 92 -

<210> 260  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 260

Lys Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val  
1 5 10

<210> 261  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 261

Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg  
1 5 10

<210> 262  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 262

Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln  
1 5 10

<210> 263  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 263

Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 264

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 264

Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 265

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 265

Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 266

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 266

Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser  
1 5 10

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<210> 267  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 267

Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 268  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 268

Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile Met  
1 5 10

<210> 269  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 269

Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile Met Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 270  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 270

Arg	Gln	Gln	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Met	Ser	Ile
1			5						10

&lt;210&gt; 271

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 271

Gln	Gln	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Met	Ser	Ile	Ile
1			5						10

&lt;210&gt; 272

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 272

Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Met	Ser	Ile	Ile	Lys	Glu
1			5						10

&lt;210&gt; 273

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 273

Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Met	Ser	Ile	Ile	Lys	Glu
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



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1                      5                      10

<210> 274  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 274

Tyr Ser Ile Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu  
1                      5                      10

<210> 275  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 275

Ser Ile Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val  
1                      5                      10

<210> 276  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 276

Ile Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu  
1                      5                      10

<210> 277  
<211> 10

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&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 277

Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 278

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 278

Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 279

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 279

Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 280

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 280

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Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val  
1 5 10

<210> 281  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 281

Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln  
1 5 10

<210> 282  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 282

Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 283  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 283

Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 284

- 99 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 284

Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 285  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 285

Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 286  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 286

Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 287  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 287

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Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val  
1 5 10

<210> 288  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 288

Val Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 289  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 289

Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 290  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 290

Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr  
1 5 10

- 101 -

<210> 291  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 291

Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 292  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 292

Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro Cys  
1 5 10

<210> 293  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 293

Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro Cys Trp  
1 5 10

<210> 294  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 294

Tyr	Gly	Val	Ile	Asp	Thr	Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 295

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 295

Gly	Val	Ile	Asp	Thr	Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 296

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 296

Val	Ile	Asp	Thr	Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu	His
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 297

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 297

Ile	Asp	Thr	Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu	His	Thr
1				5					10

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<210> 298  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 298

Asp	Thr	Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Ser
1				5					10

<210> 299  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 299

Thr	Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Ser	Pro
1				5					10

<210> 300  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 300

Pro	Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Ser	Pro	Leu
1				5					10

<210> 301  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus



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&lt;400&gt; 301

Cys	Trp	Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Ser	Pro	Leu	Cys
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 302

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 302

Trp	Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Ser	Pro	Leu	Cys	Thr
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 303

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 303

Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Ser	Pro	Leu	Cys	Thr	Thr
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 304

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 304

Leu	His	Thr	Ser	Pro	Leu	Cys	Thr	Thr	Asn
1				5					10

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<210> 305  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 305

His Thr Ser Pro Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 306  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 306

Thr Ser Pro Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 307  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 307

Ser Pro Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr Lys Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 308  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 308

Pro	Leu	Cys	Thr	Thr	Asn	Thr	Lys	Glu	Gly
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 309

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 309

Leu	Cys	Thr	Thr	Asn	Thr	Lys	Glu	Gly	Ser
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 310

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 310

Cys	Thr	Thr	Asn	Thr	Lys	Glu	Gly	Ser	Asn
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 311

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 311

Thr	Thr	Asn	Thr	Lys	Glu	Gly	Ser	Asn	Ile
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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1                      5                      10

<210> 312  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 312

Thr Asn Thr Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys  
1                      5                      10

<210> 313  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 313

Asn Thr Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu  
1                      5                      10

<210> 314  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 314

Thr Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr  
1                      5                      10

<210> 315  
<211> 10

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&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 315

Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 316

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 316

Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 317

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 317

Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 318

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 318

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Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg  
1 5 10

<210> 319  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 319

Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 320  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 320

Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp  
1 5 10

<210> 321  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 321

Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 322

- 110 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 322

Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys  
1 5 10

<210> 323  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 323

Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 324  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 324

Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 325  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 325

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Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 326  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 326

Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 327  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 327

Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 328  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 328

Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val  
1 5 10



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<210> 329  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 329

Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 330  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 330

Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 331  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 331

Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 332  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 332

Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe Pro  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 333

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 333

Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe Pro Gln  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 334

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 334

Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe Pro Gln Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 335

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 335

Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe Pro Gln Ala Glu  
1 5 10

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<210> 336  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 336

Ser	Val	Ser	Phe	Phe	Pro	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr
1				5					10

<210> 337  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 337

Val	Ser	Phe	Phe	Pro	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Cys
1				5					10

<210> 338  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 338

Ser	Phe	Phe	Pro	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Cys	Lys
1				5					10

<210> 339  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 339

Phe	Phe	Pro	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Cys	Lys	Val
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 340

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 340

Phe	Pro	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Cys	Lys	Val	Gln
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 341

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 341

Pro	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Cys	Lys	Val	Gln	Ser
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 342

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 342

Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Cys	Lys	Val	Gln	Ser	Asn
1				5					10

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<210> 343  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 343

Ala Glu Thr Cys Lys Val Gln Ser Asn Arg  
1 5 10

<210> 344  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 344

Glu Thr Cys Lys Val Gln Ser Asn Arg Val  
1 5 10

<210> 345  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 345

Thr Cys Lys Val Gln Ser Asn Arg Val Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 346  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 346

Cys	Lys	Val	Gln	Ser	Asn	Arg	Val	Phe	Cys
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 347

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 347

Lys	Val	Gln	Ser	Asn	Arg	Val	Phe	Cys	Asp
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 348

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 348

Val	Gln	Ser	Asn	Arg	Val	Phe	Cys	Asp	Thr
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 349

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 349

Gln	Ser	Asn	Arg	Val	Phe	Cys	Asp	Thr	Met
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1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 350

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 350

Ser Asn Arg Val Phe Cys Asp Thr Met Asn

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 351

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 351

Asn Arg Val Phe Cys Asp Thr Met Asn Ser

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 352

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 352

Arg Val Phe Cys Asp Thr Met Asn Ser Leu

1                      5                      10

&lt;210&gt; 353

&lt;211&gt; 10

- 119 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 353

Val	Phe	Cys	Asp	Thr	Met	Asn	Ser	Leu	Thr
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 354

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 354

Phe	Cys	Asp	Thr	Met	Asn	Ser	Leu	Thr	Leu
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 355

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 355

Cys	Asp	Thr	Met	Asn	Ser	Leu	Thr	Leu	Pro
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 356

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 356



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Asp Thr Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 357  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 357

Thr Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 358  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 358

Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val  
1 5 10

<210> 359  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 359

Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 360

- 121 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 360

Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 361  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 361

Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys  
1 5 10

<210> 362  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 362

Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 363  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 363

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Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val  
1 5 10

<210> 364  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 364

Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 365  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 365

Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val Asp Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 366  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 366

Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val Asp Ile Phe  
1 5 10

- 123 -

<210> 367  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 367

Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val Asp Ile Phe Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 368  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 368

Asn Leu Cys Asn Val Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 369  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 369

Leu Cys Asn Val Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 370  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 370

Cys Asn Val Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 371

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 371

Asn Val Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 372

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 372

Val Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 373

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 373

Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys Lys  
1 5 10

- 125 -

<210> 374  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 374

Ile	Phe	Asn	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Cys	Lys	Ile
1				5					10

<210> 375  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 375

Phe	Asn	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Cys	Lys	Ile	Met
1				5					10

<210> 376  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 376

Asn	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Cys	Lys	Ile	Met	Thr
1				5					10

<210> 377  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

- 126 -

&lt;400&gt; 377

Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 378

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 378

Lys Tyr Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 379

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 379

Tyr Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 380

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 380

Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr Asp  
1 5 10

- 127 -

<210> 381  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 381

Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr Asp Val  
1 5 10

<210> 382  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 382

Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr Asp Val Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 383  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 383

Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr Asp Val Ser Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 384  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT



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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 384

Met	Thr	Ser	Lys	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Ser	Ser
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 385

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 385

Thr	Ser	Lys	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Ser	Ser	Val
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 386

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 386

Ser	Lys	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Ser	Ser	Val	Ile
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 387

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 387

Lys	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Ser	Ser	Val	Ile	Thr
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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1                      5                      10

<210> 388  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 388

Thr Asp Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser  
1                      5                      10

<210> 389  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 389

Asp Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu  
1                      5                      10

<210> 390  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 390

Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly  
1                      5                      10

<210> 391  
<211> 10

- 130 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 391

Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 392

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 392

Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 393

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 393

Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 394

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 394

- 131 -

Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 395  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 395

Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys  
1 5 10

<210> 396  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 396

Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 397  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 397

Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 398

- 132 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 398

Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys  
1                      5                      10

<210> 399  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 399

Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr  
1                      5                      10

<210> 400  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 400

Ala Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys  
1                      5                      10

<210> 401  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 401

- 133 -

Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys  
1 5 10

<210> 402  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
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<400> 402

Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 403  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 403

Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 404  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 404

Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser  
1 5 10

- 134 -

<210> 405  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 405

Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 406  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 406

Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser Asn Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 407  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 407

Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser Asn Lys Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 408  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 408

Thr	Lys	Cys	Thr	Ala	Ser	Asn	Lys	Asn	Arg
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 409

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 409

Lys	Cys	Thr	Ala	Ser	Asn	Lys	Asn	Arg	Gly
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 410

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 410

Cys	Thr	Ala	Ser	Asn	Lys	Asn	Arg	Gly	Ile
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 411

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 411

Thr	Ala	Ser	Asn	Lys	Asn	Arg	Gly	Ile	Ile
1				5					10



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<210> 412  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 412

Ala Ser Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 413  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 413

Ser Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile Lys Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 414  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 414

Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile Lys Thr Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 415  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

- 137 -

&lt;400&gt; 415

Lys	Asn	Arg	Gly	Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 416

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 416

Asn	Arg	Gly	Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 417

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 417

Arg	Gly	Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 418

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 418

Gly	Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys
1				5					10

- 138 -

<210> 419  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 419

Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp
1				5					10

<210> 420  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 420

Ile	Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp	Tyr
1				5					10

<210> 421  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 421

Lys	Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp	Tyr	Val
1				5					10

<210> 422  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 422

Thr	Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp	Tyr	Val	Ser
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 423

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 423

Phe	Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp	Tyr	Val	Ser	Asn
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 424

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 424

Ser	Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp	Tyr	Val	Ser	Asn	Lys
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 425

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 425

Asn	Gly	Cys	Asp	Tyr	Val	Ser	Asn	Lys	Gly
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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1                      5                      10

<210> 426  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 426

Gly Cys Asp Tyr Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val  
1                      5                      10

<210> 427  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 427

Cys Asp Tyr Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val Asp  
1                      5                      10

<210> 428  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 428

Asp Tyr Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val Asp Thr  
1                      5                      10

<210> 429  
<211> 10

- 141 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 429

Tyr	Val	Ser	Asn	Lys	Gly	Val	Asp	Thr	Val
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 430

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 430

Val	Ser	Asn	Lys	Gly	Val	Asp	Thr	Val	Ser
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 431

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 431

Ser	Asn	Lys	Gly	Val	Asp	Thr	Val	Ser	Val
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 432

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 432

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Asn Lys Gly Val Asp Thr Val Ser Val Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 433  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 433

Lys Gly Val Asp Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 434  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 434

Gly Val Asp Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 435  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 435

Val Asp Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 436

- 143 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 436

Asp Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 437  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 437

Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 438  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 438

Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val  
1 5 10

<210> 439  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 439



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Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 440  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 440

Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 441  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 441

Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln  
1 5 10

<210> 442  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 442

Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu  
1 5 10

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<210> 443  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 443

Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 444  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 444

Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys  
1 5 10

<210> 445  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 445

Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 446  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 446

Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 447

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 447

Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 448

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 448

Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 449

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 449

Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys  
1 5 10

- 147 -

<210> 450  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 450

Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly  
1 5 10

<210> 451  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 451

Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 452  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 452

Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 453  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 453

Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 454

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 454

Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 455

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 455

Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 456

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 456

Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe  
1 5 10

- 149 -

<210> 457  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 457

Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 458  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 458

Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 459  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 459

Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 460  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

- 150 -

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 460

Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 461

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 461

Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 462

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 462

Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val Phe  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 463

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 463

Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val Phe Pro

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1                      5                      10

<210> 464  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 464

Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val Phe Pro Ser  
1                      5                      10

<210> 465  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 465

Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val Phe Pro Ser Asp  
1                      5                      10

<210> 466  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 466

Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu  
1                      5                      10

<210> 467  
<211> 10



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&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 467

Asp	Pro	Leu	Val	Phe	Pro	Ser	Asp	Glu	Phe
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 468

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 468

Pro	Leu	Val	Phe	Pro	Ser	Asp	Glu	Phe	Asp
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 469

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 469

Leu	Val	Phe	Pro	Ser	Asp	Glu	Phe	Asp	Ala
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 470

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 470

- 153 -

Val Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 471  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 471

Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 472  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 472

Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 473  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 473

Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln  
1 5 10

<210> 474

- 154 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 474

Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val  
1 5 10

<210> 475  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 475

Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 476  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 476

Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 477  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 477

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Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn Glu Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 478

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 478

Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn Glu Lys Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 479

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 479

Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 480

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 480

Ile Ser Gln Val Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln  
1 5 10

- 156 -

<210> 481  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 481

Ser Gln Val Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 482  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 482

Gln Val Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 483  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 483

Val Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 484  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

- 157 -

&lt;400&gt; 484

Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 485

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 485

Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 486

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 486

Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 487

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 487

Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys  
1 5 10

- 158 -

<210> 488  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 488

Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 489  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 489

Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp  
1 5 10

<210> 490  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 490

Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu  
1 5 10

<210> 491  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 491

Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 492

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 492

Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 493

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 493

Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu His  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 494

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 494

Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu His Asn  
1 5 10



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<210> 495  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 495

Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu His Asn Val  
1 5 10

<210> 496  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 496

Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu His Asn Val Asn  
1 5 10

<210> 497  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 497

Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 498  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 498

Asp Glu Leu Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 499

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 499

Glu Leu Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 500

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 500

Leu Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 501

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 501

Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr

- 162 -

1                      5                      10

<210> 502  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 502

His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr  
1                      5                      10

<210> 503  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 503

Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn  
1                      5                      10

<210> 504  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 504

Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile  
1                      5                      10

<210> 505  
<211> 10

- 163 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 505

Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 506

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 506

Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 507

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 507

Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 508

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 508

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Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 509  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 509

Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr Thr Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 510  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 510

Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 511  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 511

Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 512

- 165 -

<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 512

Asn Ile Met Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile Val  
1 5 10

<210> 513  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 513

Ile Met Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 514  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 514

Met Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 515  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 515

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Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val  
1 5 10

<210> 516  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 516

Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 517  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 517

Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 518  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 518

Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu  
1 5 10

- 167 -

<210> 519  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 519

Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 520  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 520

Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 521  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 521

Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile  
1 5 10

<210> 522  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus



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&lt;400&gt; 522

Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 523

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 523

Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 524

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 524

Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val Gly  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 525

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 525

Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val Gly Leu  
1 5 10

- 169 -

<210> 526  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 526

Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 527  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 527

Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Leu Leu  
1 5 10

<210> 528  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 528

Ser Leu Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr  
1 5 10

<210> 529  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

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&lt;400&gt; 529

Leu Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 530

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 530

Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 531

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 531

Ala Val Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 532

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 532

Val Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg  
1 5 10

- 171 -

<210> 533  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 533

Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 534  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 534

Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg Ser Thr  
1 5 10

<210> 535  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 535

Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg Ser Thr Pro  
1 5 10

<210> 536  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT

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&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 536

Leu	Tyr	Cys	Lys	Ala	Arg	Ser	Thr	Pro	Val
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 537

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 537

Tyr	Cys	Lys	Ala	Arg	Ser	Thr	Pro	Val	Thr
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 538

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 538

Cys	Lys	Ala	Arg	Ser	Thr	Pro	Val	Thr	Leu
1				5					10

&lt;210&gt; 539

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 539

Lys	Ala	Arg	Ser	Thr	Pro	Val	Thr	Leu	Ser
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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1                      5                      10

<210> 540

<211> 10

<212> PRT

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 540

Ala Arg Ser Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser Lys

1                      5                      10

<210> 541

<211> 10

<212> PRT

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 541

Arg Ser Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp

1                      5                      10

<210> 542

<211> 10

<212> PRT

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 542

Ser Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln

1                      5                      10

<210> 543

<211> 10

- 174 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 543

Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 544

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 544

Pro Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 545

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 545

Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly

1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 546

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 546

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Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 547

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 547

Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 548

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 548

Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 549

&lt;211&gt; 10

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 549

Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 550



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<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 550

Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile Ala  
1 5 10

<210> 551  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 551

Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile Ala Phe  
1 5 10

<210> 552  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 552

Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile Ala Phe Ser  
1 5 10

<210> 553  
<211> 10  
<212> PRT  
<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 553

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Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile Ala Phe Ser Asn  
1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 554

&lt;211&gt; 241

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 554

Met Glu Lys Phe Ala Pro Glu Phe His Gly Glu Asp Ala Asn Asn Arg  
1 5 10 15

Ala Thr Lys Phe Leu Glu Ser Ile Lys Gly Lys Phe Thr Ser Pro Lys  
20 25 30

Asp Pro Lys Lys Lys Asp Ser Ile Ile Ser Val Asn Ser Ile Asp Ile  
35 40 45

Glu Val Thr Lys Glu Ser Pro Ile Thr Ser Asn Ser Thr Ile Ile Asn  
50 55 60

Pro Thr Asn Glu Thr Asp Asp Thr Ala Gly Asn Lys Pro Asn Tyr Gln  
65 70 75 80

Arg Lys Pro Leu Val Ser Phe Lys Glu Asp Pro Thr Pro Ser Asp Asn  
85 90 95

Pro Phe Ser Lys Leu Tyr Lys Glu Thr Ile Glu Thr Phe Asp Asn Asn  
100 105 110

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Glu Glu Glu Ser Ser Tyr Ser Tyr Glu Glu Ile Asn Asp Gln Thr Asn  
115 120 125

Asp Asn Ile Thr Ala Arg Leu Asp Arg Ile Asp Glu Lys Leu Ser Glu  
130 135 140

Ile Leu Gly Met Leu His Thr Leu Val Val Ala Ser Ala Gly Pro Thr  
145 150 155 160

Ser Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Arg Asp Ala Met Ile Gly Leu Arg Glu Glu  
165 170 175

Met Ile Glu Lys Ile Arg Thr Glu Ala Leu Met Thr Asn Asp Arg Leu  
180 185 190

Glu Ala Met Ala Arg Leu Arg Asn Glu Glu Ser Glu Lys Met Ala Lys  
195 200 205

Asp Thr Ser Asp Glu Val Ser Leu Asn Pro Thr Ser Glu Lys Leu Asn  
210 215 220

Asn Leu Leu Glu Gly Asn Asp Ser Asp Asn Asp Leu Ser Leu Glu Asp  
225 230 235 240

Phe

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&lt;210&gt; 555

&lt;211&gt; 726

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 555

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atggaaaagt ttgctcctga attccatgga gaagatgcaa acaacagggc tactaaattc      60
ctagaatcaa taaagggcaa attcacatca ccaaagatc ccaagaaaa agatagtatc      120
atatctgtca actcaataga tatagaagta accaaagaaa gccctataac atcaaattca      180
actattatca acccaacaaa tgagacagat gatactgcag ggaacaagcc caattatcaa      240
agaaaacctc tagtaagttt caaagaagac cctacaccaa gtgataatcc cttttctaaa      300
ctatacaaag aaaccataga aacatttgat aacaatgaag aagaatccag ctattcatac      360
gaagaaataa atgatcagac aaacgataat ataacagcaa gattagatag gattgatgaa      420
aaattaagtg aaatactagg aatgcttcac acattagtag tggcaagtgc aggacctaca      480
tctgctcggg atggtataag agatgccatg attggtttta gagaâgaaat gatagaaaaa      540
atcagaactg aagcattaat gaccaatgac agattagaag ctatggcaag actcaggaat      600
gaggaaagtg aaaagatggc aaaagacaca tcagatgaag tgtctctcaa tccaacatca      660
gagaaattga acaacctatt ggaaggggaat gatagtgaca atgatctatc acttgaagat      720
ttctga                                           726

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&lt;210&gt; 556

&lt;211&gt; 726

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

- 180 -

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; Optimised Sequence

&lt;400&gt; 556

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atggagaagt tcgccccga gttccacggc gaggacgcc acaatcgggc caccaagttc      60

ctggagagca tcaagggcaa gttcaccagc cccaaggacc ccaagaaaaa ggacagcatc      120

atttcgtga acagcatcga catcgaggtg accaaggaga gccccatcac ctccaacagc      180

accatcatta accccaccaa cgagacagac gataccgccg gcaacaagcc caactaccag      240

cggaagcccc tggtgagctt caaggaggac cccacccta gcgacaacc cttcagcaag      300

ctgtacaagg agaccatcga gaccttcgac aacaatgagg aagagagctc ctacagctac      360

gaagagatca acgaccagac caacgacaac atcaccgcc ggctggacag aatcgacgag      420

aagctgagcg agatcctggg catgctgcac accctggtgg tcgccagcgc cggccccacc      480

agcgcccggg acggcatcag agacgccatg atcggcctgc gggaggaaat gatcgagaag      540

atccggaccg aggcctgat gaccaacgac cggtcgagg ctatggccag actgcggaac      600

gaggaaagcg agaagatggc caaggacacc agcgacgagg tgagcctgaa ccccaccagc      660

gagaagctga acaatctgct cgagggcaac gacagcgata acgacctgag cctggaggac      720

ttctga                                          726

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&lt;210&gt; 557

&lt;211&gt; 391

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 557

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Met Ala Leu Ser Lys Val Lys Leu Asn Asp Thr Leu Asn Lys Asp Gln  
1                      5                      10                      15

Leu Leu Ser Ser Ser Lys Tyr Thr Ile Gln Arg Ser Thr Gly Asp Ser  
                    20                      25                      30

Ile Asp Thr Pro Asn Tyr Asp Val Gln Lys His Ile Asn Lys Leu Cys  
                    35                      40                      45

Gly Met Leu Leu Ile Thr Glu Asp Ala Asn His Lys Phe Thr Gly Leu  
                    50                      55                      60

Ile Gly Met Leu Tyr Ala Met Ser Arg Leu Gly Arg Glu Asp Thr Ile  
65                      70                      75                      80

Lys Ile Leu Arg Asp Ala Gly Tyr His Val Lys Ala Asn Gly Val Asp  
                    85                      90                      95

Val Thr Thr His Arg Gln Asp Ile Asn Gly Lys Glu Met Lys Phe Glu  
                    100                      105                      110

Val Leu Thr Leu Ala Ser Leu Thr Thr Glu Ile Gln Ile Asn Ile Glu  
                    115                      120                      125

Ile Glu Ser Arg Lys Ser Tyr Lys Lys Met Leu Lys Glu Met Gly Glu  
                    130                      135                      140

Val Ala Pro Glu Tyr Arg His Asp Ser Pro Asp Cys Gly Met Ile Ile  
145                      150                      155                      160

- 182 -

Leu Cys Ile Ala Ala Leu Val Ile Thr Lys Leu Ala Ala Gly Asp Arg  
165 170 175

Ser Gly Leu Thr Ala Val Ile Arg Arg Ala Asn Asn Val Leu Lys Asn  
180 185 190

Glu Met Lys Arg Tyr Lys Gly Leu Leu Pro Lys Asp Ile Ala Asn Ser  
195 200 205

Phe Tyr Glu Val Phe Glu Lys His Pro His Phe Ile Asp Val Phe Val  
210 215 220

His Phe Gly Ile Ala Gln Ser Ser Thr Arg Gly Gly Ser Arg Val Glu  
225 230 235 240

Gly Ile Phe Ala Gly Leu Phe Met Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ala Gly Gln Val  
245 250 255

Met Leu Arg Trp Gly Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Val Lys Asn Ile Met Leu  
260 265 270

Gly His Ala Ser Val Gln Ala Glu Met Glu Gln Val Val Glu Val Tyr  
275 280 285

Glu Tyr Ala Gln Lys Leu Gly Gly Glu Ala Gly Phe Tyr His Ile Leu  
290 295 300

- 183 -

Asn Asn Pro Lys Ala Ser Leu Leu Ser Leu Thr Gln Phe Pro His Phe  
 305 310 315 320

Ser Ser Val Val Leu Gly Asn Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Ile Met Gly Glu  
 325 330 335

Tyr Arg Gly Thr Pro Arg Asn Gln Asp Leu Tyr Asp Ala Ala Lys Ala  
 340 345 350

Tyr Ala Glu Gln Leu Lys Glu Asn Gly Val Ile Asn Tyr Ser Val Leu  
 355 360 365

Asp Leu Thr Ala Glu Glu Leu Glu Ala Ile Lys His Gln Leu Asn Pro  
 370 375 380

Lys Asp Asn Asp Val Glu Leu  
 385 390

<210> 558

<211> 1176

<212> DNA

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 558

atggctctta gcaaagtcaa gttgaatgat aactcaaca aagatcaact tctgtcatcc 60

agcaaataca ccatccaacg gagcacagga gatagtattg atactcctaa ttatgatgtg 120

cagaaacaca tcaataagtt atgtggcatg ttattaatca cagaagatgc taatcataaa 180

ttcactgggt taataggtat gttatatgctg atgtctaggt taggaagaga agacaccata 240



- 184 -

aaaatactca gagatgcggg atatcatgta aaagcaaag gagtagatgt aacaacacat 300  
cgtcaagaca ttaatggaaa agaaatgaaa tttgaagtgt taacattggc aagcttaaca 360  
actgaaattc aaatcaacat tgagatagaa tctagaaaat cctacaaaaa aatgctaaaa 420  
gaaatgggag aggtagctcc agaatacagg catgactctc ctgattgtgg gatgataata 480  
ttatgtatag cagcattagt aataactaaa ttagcagcag gggacagatc tggctttaca 540  
gccgtgatta ggagagctaa taatgtccta aaaaatgaaa tgaaacgtta caaaggctta 600  
ctaccaagg acatagccaa cagcttctat gaagtgttg aaaaacatcc ccactttata 660  
gatgtttttg ttcatttttg tatagcacia tcttctacca gaggtggcag tagagttgaa 720  
gggatttttg caggattgtt tatgaatgcc tatggtgcag ggcaagtgt gttacggtgg 780  
ggagtcttag caaaatcagt taaaaatatt atgttaggac atgctagtgt gcaagcagaa 840  
atggaacaag ttgttgaggt ttatgaatat gcccaaaaat tgggtggtga agcaggattc 900  
taccatatat tgaacaaccc aaaagcatca ttattatctt tgactcaatt tcctcacttc 960  
tccagtgtag tattaggcaa tgctgctggc ctaggcataa tgggagagta cagaggtaca 1020  
ccgaggaatc aagatctata tgatgcagca aaggcatatg ctgaacaact caaagaaaat 1080  
ggtgtgatta actacagtgt actagacttg acagcagaag aactagaggc tatcaaacat 1140  
cagcttaatc caaaagataa tgatgtagag ctttga 1176

&lt;210&gt; 559

&lt;211&gt; 1176

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

- 185 -

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; Optimised Sequence

&lt;400&gt; 559

atggccctga gcaaggtgaa actcaacgac accctgaata aggatcagct cctgagctcc	60
tctaaataca ccatccagcg gagcaccggc gacagcattg atacccccaa ctacgacgtg	120
cagaagcaca tcaacaaact gtgcggcatg ctctctgatca ccgaggacgc caaccacaag	180
ttcaccggcc tgatcgggat gctctacgcc atgagccggc tgggcagaga ggacaccatc	240
aagattctgc gggatgccgg ctaccacgtg aaggccaacg gagtcgacgt gaccacacac	300
cggcaggata tcaacggcaa ggagatgaaa ttogaagtgc tgaccctcgc cagcctgaca	360
accgagatcc agattaacat cgaaattgag tcccgggaaga gctacaaaaa gatgctgaaa	420
gagatgggcg aagtggcccc cgagtaccgg caccgacagcc ccgattgcgg catgatcatt	480
ctgtgtatcg ccgctctcgt gattaccaag ctggccgctg gcgaccggag cgggctgacc	540
gccgtgatca gacgggctaa caatgtgctg aagaacgaga tgaaacggta caagggcctc	600
ctgccccaaag acatcgccaa cagcttctac gaggtgtttg aaaagcacc ccatttcac	660
gacgtctttg tgcacttcgg cattgccag agctccacca gaggcgggag ccgggtggag	720
ggcatcttcg ccgggctgtt tatgaacgct tacggcgccg ggcaggtgat gctgcggtgg	780
ggcgtcctcg ccaagagcgt gaaaaacatc atgctgggcc acgccagcgt gcaggctgag	840
atggaacaag tggtcgaggt gtacgaatat gcccagaagc tgggcggaga ggttggttc	900
taccacatcc tgaacaatcc caaggccagc ctctgtgcc tcaccagtt tccccacttc	960
agctccgtcg tgctgggcaa cgccgctgga ctcgggatca tgggcgagta ccggggaacc	1020

- 186 -

cccagaaacc aggacctgta tgatgccgct aaggcatatcg ccgagcagct gaaagaaaac 1080

ggcgtgatca attacagcgt gctggacctc accgccgagg aactggaggc tatcaagcac 1140

cagctcaacc ccaaagacaa tgatgtggag ctgtga 1176

<210> 560

<211> 64

<212> PRT

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 560

Met	Glu	Asn	Thr	Ser	Ile	Thr	Ile	Glu	Phe	Ser	Ser	Lys	Phe	Trp	Pro
1				5					10					15	

Tyr	Phe	Thr	Leu	Ile	His	Met	Ile	Thr	Thr	Ile	Ile	Ser	Leu	Leu	Ile
			20					25					30		

Ile	Ile	Ser	Ile	Met	Ile	Ala	Ile	Leu	Asn	Lys	Leu	Cys	Glu	Tyr	Asn
		35				40						45			

Val	Phe	His	Asn	Lys	Thr	Phe	Glu	Leu	Pro	Arg	Ala	Arg	Val	Asn	Thr
	50					55					60				

<210> 561

<211> 195

<212> DNA

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 561

atggaaaata catccataac aatagaattc tcaagcaaatt tctggcctta ctttacacta 60

- 187 -

atacacatga tcacaacaat aatctctttg ctaatcataa tctccatcat gattgcaata 120

ctaaacaaac tttgtgaata taacgtattc cataacaaaa cctttgagtt accaagagct 180

cgagtcaaca catag 195

<210> 562

<211> 195

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Optimised sequence

<400> 562

atggagaaca cctccatcac cattgagttc tcctccaagt tctggccata cttcacctg 60

atccacatga tcaccacat catctccctg ctgatcatca tctccatcat gattgccatc 120

ctgaacaagc tttgtgagta caatgtcttc cacaacaaga cctttgagct gcccggggcc 180

cggggtgaaca cctga 195

<210> 563

<211> 6

<212> PRT

<213> respiratory syncytial virus

<400> 563

Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg

1

5

<210> 564

<211> 4

- 188 -

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; respiratory syncytial virus

&lt;400&gt; 564

Arg Ala Arg Arg

1

&lt;210&gt; 565

&lt;211&gt; 575.

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; RSV F Protein Variant

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;221&gt; MISC\_FEATURE

&lt;222&gt; (575)..(575)

&lt;223&gt; Xaa is any nucleotide

&lt;400&gt; 565

Met Glu Leu Leu Ile Leu Lys Ala Asn Ala Ile Thr Thr Ile Leu Thr

1

5

10

15

Ala Val Thr Phe Cys Phe Ala Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe

20

25

30

Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu

35

40

45

Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile

- 189 -

50

55

60

Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys  
65 70 75 80

Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu  
85 90 95

Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn Gly Gln Gly Arg Glu Leu Pro  
100 105 110

Arg Phe Met Asn Tyr Thr Leu Asn Asn Ala Lys Lys Thr Asn Val Thr  
115 120 125

Leu Ser Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val  
130 135 140

Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu  
145 150 155 160

Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys  
165 170 175

Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val  
180 185 190

Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn  
195 200 205

- 190 -

Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile Glu Thr Val Ile Glu Phe Gln  
210 215 220

Gln Lys Asn Asn Arg Leu Leu Glu Ile Thr Arg Glu Phe Ser Val Asn  
225 230 235 240

Ala Gly Val Thr Thr Pro Val Ser Thr Tyr Met Leu Thr Asn Ser Glu  
245 250 255

Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys  
260 265 270

Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile  
275 280 285

Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro  
290 295 300

Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro Cys Trp Lys Leu His Thr Ser Pro  
305 310 315 320

Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr Lys Glu Gly Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg  
325 330 335

Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe  
340 345 350

Pro Gln Ala Glu Thr Cys Lys Val Gln Ser Asn Arg Val Phe Cys Asp

- 191 -

355

360

365

Thr Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val  
370 375 380

Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr  
385 390 395 400

Asp Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys  
405 410 415

Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile  
420 425 430

Lys Thr Phe Ser Asn Gly Cys Asp Tyr Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val Asp  
435 440 445

Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly  
450 455 460

Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro  
465 470 475 480

Leu Val Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn  
485 490 495

Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu  
500 505 510



- 192 -

Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr  
                   515                                  520                                  525

Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val  
                   530                                  535                                  540

Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg Ser Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser  
                   545                                  550                                  555                                  560

Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn Ile Ala Phe Ser Asn Xaa  
                                   565                                  570                                  575

<210> 566

<211> 3450

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> RSV F Protein Variant

<400> 566

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tgcttcgcct ctggccagaa catcactgag gaggttctacc tacctcgacg actaggactt 120

ccggttgctg tagtggtggt aggactggcg cactggaag acgaagcgga gaccggtctt 180

gtagtgactc ctcaagatgg agagcacttg ttccgctgtg agcaagggtt acctgagcgc 240

cctgaggacc ggttggtaca ccagcgtgat caccatcgag ctgagcaaca tcaagaagaa 300

tctcgtgaac aaggcgacac tcgttcccga tggactcgcg ggactcctgg ccaaccatgt 360

- 193 -

ggtcgcacta gtggtagctc gactcgttgt agttcttctt caagtgaac ggcaccgacg 420

ccaaggtgaa gctgatcaag caagagctgg acaagtacaa gaacgcctg accgagctgc 480

aactgctgat gcagtcgact gttcacgttg ccgtggctgc ggttcactt cgactagttc 540

gttctcgacc tggtcatggt cttgcggcac tggtcgcacg ttgacgacta cgtcagctga 600

caagccacca acaacggcca gggcagagag ctgccccgt tcatgaacta caccctgaac 660

aacgccaaga agaccaacgt gaccctgtcc aagaagagga gttcggtggt tgttgccggt 720

cccgctcttc gacggggcga agtacttgat gtgggacttg ttgcggttct tctggttgca 780

ctgggacagg ttcttctctt agcgcgctt cctgggcttc ctgctggcg tgggtccgc 840

cattgccagt ggcgtggcg tgtccaaggt gctgcacctg gagggcgagg tgaacaagat 900

tcgcggcgaa ggacccgaag gacgaccgc acccgaggcg gtaacggtca ccgaccggc 960

acaggttcca cgacgtggac ctcccgtcc acttgttcta caagagtgc ctgctgtcca 1020

ctaacaaggc cgtggtgagc ctgagcaacg gcgtgagtgt gctgactagc aaggtgctgg 1080

acctgaagaa ctacatcgac gttctcacgg gacgacaggt gattgttccg gcaccactcg 1140

gactcgttgc cgactcaca cgactgatcg ttccacgacc tggacttctt gatgtagctg 1200

aagcaattgc tgcccatcgt gaacaagcag tcctgtagca tctccaacat cgagactgtg 1260

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cttgttcgtc aggacatcgt agaggttgta gctctgacac tagctcaagg tcgtcttctt 1380

gttggcggac gacctttagt cccgggagtt cagtgtgaac gctggcgtga ccactcctgt 1440

ctccacctac atgctgacca acagcgagct gctgagcctg atcaacgaca tgcccatcac 1500

- 194 -

gggccctcaa gtcacacttg cgaccgcact ggtgaggaca gaggtggatg tacgactggg 1560  
tgtcgctcga cgactcggac tagttgctgt acgggtagtg caacgaccag aagaagctta 1620  
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- 195 -

ggacactgtg tccgtgggca acaccctgta ctacgtgaac aagcaagagg gcaagagcct 2700  
ggaagtcgtt acccacgctg atgcaaagct tgttcccgca cctgtgacac aggcacccgt 2760  
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agtagcacta ggacgactcg gactagcggc acccgacga cgacatgacg ttccgggcct 3360  
cgtgagggca ctgggactcg ttcttggtcg actcgccgta caacaacatc gccttcagca 3420  
actgagttgt ttagcggaa gtcgttgact 3450

&lt;210&gt; 567

&lt;211&gt; 550

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; RSV F Protein Variant

&lt;220&gt;

- 196 -

&lt;221&gt; MISC\_FEATURE

&lt;222&gt; (550)..(550)

&lt;223&gt; Xaa is any nucleotide

&lt;400&gt; 567

Met Glu Leu Leu Ile Leu Lys Ala Asn Ala Ile Thr Thr Ile Leu Thr  
1 5 10 15

Ala Val Thr Phe Cys Phe Ala Ser Gly Gln Asn Ile Thr Glu Glu Phe  
20 25 30

Tyr Gln Ser Thr Cys Ser Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Ser Ala Leu  
35 40 45

Arg Thr Gly Trp Tyr Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Ile Glu Leu Ser Asn Ile  
50 55 60

Lys Lys Asn Lys Cys Asn Gly Thr Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Leu Ile Lys  
65 70 75 80

Gln Glu Leu Asp Lys Tyr Lys Asn Ala Val Thr Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu  
85 90 95

Met Gln Ser Thr Gln Ala Thr Asn Asn Lys Lys Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe  
100 105 110

Leu Gly Phe Leu Leu Gly Val Gly Ser Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Val Ala  
115 120 125

- 197 -

Val Ser Lys Val Leu His Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Asn Lys Ile Lys Ser  
130 135 140

Ala Leu Leu Ser Thr Asn Lys Ala Val Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Gly Val  
145 150 155 160

Ser Val Leu Thr Ser Lys Val Leu Asp Leu Lys Asn Tyr Ile Asp Lys  
165 170 175

Gln Leu Leu Pro Ile Val Asn Lys Gln Ser Cys Ser Ile Ser Asn Ile  
180 185 190

Glu Thr Val Ile Glu Phe Gln Gln Lys Asn Asn Arg Leu Leu Glu Ile  
195 200 205

Thr Arg Glu Phe Ser Val Asn Ala Gly Val Thr Thr Pro Val Ser Thr  
210 215 220

Tyr Met Leu Thr Asn Ser Glu Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Asn Asp Met Pro  
225 230 235 240

Ile Thr Asn Asp Gln Lys Lys Leu Met Ser Asn Asn Val Gln Ile Val  
245 250 255

Arg Gln Gln Ser Tyr Ser Ile Met Ser Ile Ile Lys Glu Glu Val Leu  
260 265 270

Ala Tyr Val Val Gln Leu Pro Leu Tyr Gly Val Ile Asp Thr Pro Cys

- 198 -

275

280

285

Trp Lys Leu His Thr Ser Pro Leu Cys Thr Thr Asn Thr Lys Glu Gly  
290 295 300

Ser Asn Ile Cys Leu Thr Arg Thr Asp Arg Gly Trp Tyr Cys Asp Asn  
305 310 315 320

Ala Gly Ser Val Ser Phe Phe Pro Gln Ala Glu Thr Cys Lys Val Gln  
325 330 335

Ser Asn Arg Val Phe Cys Asp Thr Met Asn Ser Leu Thr Leu Pro Ser  
340 345 350

Glu Val Asn Leu Cys Asn Val Asp Ile Phe Asn Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys  
355 360 365

Lys Ile Met Thr Ser Lys Thr Asp Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ile Thr Ser  
370 375 380

Leu Gly Ala Ile Val Ser Cys Tyr Gly Lys Thr Lys Cys Thr Ala Ser  
385 390 395 400

Asn Lys Asn Arg Gly Ile Ile Lys Thr Phe Ser Asn Gly Cys Asp Tyr  
405 410 415

Val Ser Asn Lys Gly Val Asp Thr Val Ser Val Gly Asn Thr Leu Tyr  
420 425 430

- 199 -

Tyr Val Asn Lys Gln Glu Gly Lys Ser Leu Tyr Val Lys Gly Glu Pro  
435 440 445

Ile Ile Asn Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Val Phe Pro Ser Asp Glu Phe Asp  
450 455 460

Ala Ser Ile Ser Gln Val Asn Glu Lys Ile Asn Gln Ser Leu Ala Phe  
465 470 475 480

Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Glu Leu Leu His Asn Val Asn Ala Gly Lys Ser  
485 490 495

Thr Thr Asn Ile Met Ile Thr Thr Ile Ile Ile Val Ile Ile Val Ile  
500 505 510

Leu Leu Ser Leu Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Cys Lys Ala Arg  
515 520 525

Ser Thr Pro Val Thr Leu Ser Lys Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Ile Asn Asn  
530 535 540

Ile Ala Phe Ser Asn Xaa  
545 550

<210> 568  
<211> 3299  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence



- 200 -

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; RSV F Protein Variant

&lt;400&gt; 568

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tgcttcgcct ctggccagaa catcactgag gagttctacc tacctcgacg actaggactt	120
ccggttgccg tagtggtggt aggactggcg cacttggaag acgaagcgga gaccggtctt	180
gtagtgactc ctcaagatgg agagcacttg ttccgctgtg agcaagggtt acctgagcgc	240
cctgaggacc ggttgggtaca ccagcgtgat caccatcgag ctgagcaaca tcaagaagaa	300
tctcgtgaac aaggcgacac tcgttccga tggactcgcg ggactcctgg ccaaccatgt	360
ggtcgcacta gtggtagctc gactcgttgt agttcttctt caagtgaac ggcaccgacg	420
ccaaggtgaa gctgatcaag caagagctgg acaagtacaa gaacgccgtg accgagctgc	480
aactgctgat gcagtcgact gttcacgttg ccgtggctgc ggttcactt cgactagttc	540
gttctcgacc tggtcatgtt cttgcggcac tggtcgcacg ttgacgacta cgtcagctga	600
caagccacca acaacaagaa gaggaagcgc cgcttcctgg gcttcctgct gggcgtgggc	660
tccgccattg ccagtggcgt ggccgtgtcc aaggtgctgc gttcgggtgt tgttgttctt	720
ctccttcgcg gcgaaggacc cgaaggacga cccgcacccg aggcggtaac ggtcaccgca	780
ccggcacagg ttccacgacg acctggaggg cgagggtgaac aagatcaaga gtgccctgct	840
gtccactaac aaggccgtgg tgagcctgag caacggcgtg agtgtgctga ctagcaaggt	900
tggacctccc gctccacttg ttctagttct cacgggacga caggtgattg ttccggcacc	960
actcggactc gttgccgcac tcacacgact gatcgttcca gctggacctg aagaactaca	1020

- 201 -

tcgacaagca attgctgccc atcgtgaaca agcagtcctg tagcatctcc aacatcgaga 1080  
ctgtgatcga gttccagcag cgacctggac ttcttgatgt agctgttcgt taacgacggg 1140  
tagcacttgt tcgtcaggac atcgtagagg ttgtagctct gacactagct caaggtcgtc 1200  
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- 202 -

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- 203 -

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ttaagtaata tcaagaaaaa taagtgaat ggaacagatg ctaaggtaaa attgataaaa 240

- 204 -

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- 205 -

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&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

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&lt;223&gt; RSV F Protein Variant

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- 206 -

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- 207 -

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- 208 -

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&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Synthetic

- 209 -

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23

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU01/01517

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>																						
Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> : C07K 14/08, 14/115, 14/135, 16/10; A61K 38/16, 39/155; A61P 11/00; C12N 15/45, 15/40; C12Q 1/68; G01N 1/68;																						
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																						
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>																						
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)																						
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched																						
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PubMed, keywords: F protein, fusion, RSV, respiratory syncytial virus, Paramyxoviridae, Pneumovirus and similar terms; STN file Medline: fusion, RSV, and sequences RARR, KKRKRR; Espace, keywords, f protein, expression; ANGIS: seq id's 3, 4, 5, 6, 556, 559, 562																						
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>																						
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																				
X Y	EP 780475 B1 (SCHWEIZ SERUM- & IMPFINSTITUT) 25 June 1997 see whole document	1 - 14 1 - 25, 56 - 59																				
X, Y	WO 99/02694 A1 (THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND) 21 January 1999 see whole document	1 - 25, 56 - 59																				
X, Y	WO 96/09378 A1 (THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION) 28 March 1996 see whole document	1 - 25, 56 - 59																				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex																						
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A"</td> <td>document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T"</td> <td>later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E"</td> <td>earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L"</td> <td>document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O"</td> <td>document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&amp;"</td> <td>document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P"</td> <td>document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family	"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention																			
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone																			
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art																			
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family																			
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed																					
Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 January 2002		Date of mailing of the international search report 19 FEB 2002																				
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  DAVID GRIFFITHS Telephone No : (02) 6283 2628																				

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU01/01517

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,619,942 A (TIDWELL, <i>et al.</i> ) 28 October 1986 col. 1, line 61 - col. 2, line 16	26
X	WO 99/62932 A2 (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY) 9 December 1999 page 12 line 15 to page 14 line 11	41, 62, 75, 79
X	SAKURAI, Hiroshi <i>et al.</i> , "Human Antibody Responses to Mature and Immature Forms of Viral Envelope in Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection: Significance for Subunit Vaccines", Journal of Virology, Vol. 73, No. 4, April 1999, pp. 2956 - 2962 see whole document	41, 62, 75, 79
X	LI, Xiaomao <i>et al.</i> , "Protection against Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection by DNA Immunization", J. Exp. Med., Vol 188, No. 4, 17 August 1998, pp. 681 - 688 see whole document	41, 62, 75, 79
X	LOPEZ, Juan A. <i>et al.</i> , "Antigenic Structure of Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus Fusion Protein", Journal of Virology, Vol. 72, No. 8, August 1998, pp. 6922-6928 see whole document	41, 62, 75, 79
P, X	ZIMMER, G. <i>et al.</i> , "Proteolytic Activation of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Fusion Protein". Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. 276, No. 34, pp. 31642-31650 see whole document	44 - 49

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU01/01517

**Box I** Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos : 1 - 41 (in part), 42, 43, 44 -79 (in part)  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
The breadth of the claims is such that a full, meaningful search is not possible on economic grounds. The search was therefore confined largely to the optimisation of expression in eukaryotes by replacing less-preferred codons by more preferred codons. A keyword search was done to cover the other claimed aspects but due to the breadth of the claims this cannot be regarded as complete. It was not technically feasible to search claims 42 and 43.
3. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

**Box II** Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See supplemental sheet

- ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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**Supplemental Box:**

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

The following separate inventions have been identified:

- (i) a method of facilitating the production of viral protein (*e.g.* claim 1)
- (ii) a method of regulating the functional activity of viral F protein (*e.g.* claim 26)
- (iii) a method of detecting an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of viral F protein (*e.g.* claim 34)
- (iv) an agent capable of regulating the functional activity of viral F protein (*e.g.* claim 41)
- (v) a viral F protein variant (*e.g.* claim 44)
- (vi) a recombinant viral protein construct optimised for expression in a eukaryote (*e.g.* claim 60).

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.  
**PCT/AU01/01517**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
EP	780475	AU	68208/96	CA	2228956
		WO	9706270	EP	846181
WO	99/02694	AU	81999/98	EP	1002091
WO	96/09378	AU	35099/95	CA	2200342
		TR	960230	US	5786464
		US	5795737	CA	2231394
		WO	9711086	EP	851868
US	4619942	US	4324794	US	4397863
WO	99/62932	US	6315810	US	6299827
		EP	882679	JP	11005069
END OF ANNEX					